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Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 230

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2018 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

# 'We're at halfway mark'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

In just a month following the widespread devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu, the CNMI is already halfway through the restoration process, according to a spokesperson of the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office.

In a telephone interview with Nadine Deleon Guerrero, the public information officer of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office, she said it would be safe to say that just one month after Yutu, the CNMI has made it to the halfway mark in the recovery process.

Although there still isn't power in

See HALFWAY on Page 4

## Arrivals drop 34 pct. in Oct.

Visitor arrivals fell 34 percent to 32,108 visitors in October 2018, compared to 48,950 visitors received in October 2017. The reduction was largely due to the temporary closure of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport following Super Typhoon Yutu, which passed through the islands on the evening of Oct. 24. The airport

See ARRIVALS on Page 4

## 5 more airlines to resume flights

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI's tourism industry is slowly getting back to its feet, with five more airline companies set to resume international flights to the Commonwealth starting today, Tuesday, to Thursday.

Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Thomas Kim said yesterday that scheduled to resume flights to Saipan this week are Sichuan Airlines, Jeju Air, China Eastern, Beijing Capital Airlines, and Hong Kong Airlines.

Kim said Sichuan Airlines is expected to arrive today, Tuesday, at 3:10am, from Guangzhou, China.

Jeju Air will also arrive today,

See FLIGHTS on Page 4

## 12K DNAP beneficiaries expected

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

That number, though, is just an estimate.

According to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the projected 12,000 beneficiaries of the one-time Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program could go up or down. In fact, the number of people applying for DNAP is nearing the projected maximum on just the second day.

See DNAP on Page 4

A volunteer hands out Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program numbers to a vehicle at the new DNAP numbering site at the Minachom Atdao pavilion, across the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe yesterday
ERWIN ENCINARES

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Eric Bana is bringing the popular true crime podcast "Dirty John" to TV.
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# Local

## Some areas in southern Saipan now have power

Some areas in the southern part of Saipan already have power, even as restoration work is still ongoing at the four feeders that remain offline.

Water production on Saipan is now at 80 percent, with 104 out of the 131 water wells operating, according to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho yesterday.

In his update, Camacho said 49 water wells are online, using the CUC power grid, while 43 wells are online using Federal Emergency Management Agency generators.

Camacho said the CUC power crew energized the primary lines from the Dandan entrance to Dandan Middle School last Friday afternoon.

On Saturday, the Tun Herman Pan compound and Java Joe's and Everclean laundry were energized.

As of Saturday, work was still in progress for the primary lines to restore power from Dandan Elementary School to the Dandan homestead.

Camacho said that, as of last Saturday, the Obyan area was being prioritized to energize the numerous water wells.

He said that last Nov. 19, they energized facilities on Tun Herman Pan Road from the Adios sign to the Commonwealth Ports Authority building.

The Herman's Bakery area was energized last Nov. 20.

Camacho said restoration is still ongoing in the areas surrounding the Northern Marianas College and As Lito toward Koblerville.

On Tinian, he said, all feeders remain offline.

Camacho said Maui Pump Station remains operational and water is 100 percent online in San Jose, Marpo Valley, Carolinas Heights, and Marpo Heights I and II.

Camacho said that water production is steady at 100 percent. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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## Torres enacts reserve fund bill

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Taking a cue from the hard economic lessons of the last 30 years, when the CNMI economy went through a dizzying boom and bust, the CNMI government has created a reserve fund where it can set aside extra funds for when the need arises.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres enacted last week a bill that would create a special reserve fund for the CNMI government. House Bill 20-100 House Substitute 1 is now Public Law 20-82.

Torres said in a statement that the reserve funds would be used primarily for education, medical and health care, and other immediate needs of the Commonwealth.

"The reserve fund would be used to enhance education and workforce development, economic development and diversification, infrastructure improvements, medical and healthcare facilities, to provide essential services in the event of a revenue shortfall, and on potential tax relief measures for residents and businesses of the Commonwealth," said Torres.

When he introduced the bill, House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) said it is the intention of the Legislature to save a significant portion of the CNMI's increasing revenue in a special reserve fund.

"The Legislature finds that it is desirable to establish a special reserve fund as a means of conserving a portion of the Commonwealth's revenue derived from the increased revenue proceeds and other funding source as the Legislature may designate in order to meet future needs," as stated in P.L. 20-82. "The principal of the fund shall remain inviolate and no portion of the principal may be expended or encumbered for a period of 10 years."

The Finance secretary would establish the special casino gross revenue tax account, which will be different from the general funds. It will also be the Finance secretary's duty to keep a record of the CGRT funds.

The first $220,000 of the funds deposited to the CGRT account, after each calendar year, shall be earmarked by the Legislature to cover the payment of 25 percent of settlement class members and CNMI Fund members receiving annuity.

The Finance secretary will be tasked to invest and manage the assets of the reserve fund.

The secretary would also engage one or more fund custodians that would assume the responsibilities for the physical possession of fund assets or evidence of assets.

"The custodian shall submit such reports, accountings, and other information in such forms and at such as requested by the secretary," as stated in P.L. 20-82.

FOR REHEARING ON GUN CONTROL RULING

## 9th Circuit denies PTSA's request

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has denied the Tanapag Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association's motion to file a rehearing petition in connection with its request to intervene to appeal in the lawsuit filed by U.S. Navy veteran David J. Radich and his wife, who successfully challenged the constitutionality of the CNMI gun control law.

Ninth Circuit judges A. Wallace Tashima, William A. Fletcher, and Andrew D. Hurwitz denied Tanapag Middle School PTSA's petition for panel rehearing and the petition for rehearing en banc.

An en banc refers to a session in which a case is heard before all the judges of the court. A panel hearing is heard before the court's selected judges.

Tashima, Fletcher, and Hurwitz voted to deny the petition for panel rehearing.

The judges said no judge requested a vote on en banc rehearing.

Last July, the Ninth Circuit affirmed U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's ruling that denied Tanapag Middle School PTSA's motion to intervene.

The Ninth Circuit judges concluded that the Tanapag Middle School PTSA lacks standing to intervene. Therefore, the Ninth Circuit judges said, Manglona did not err in denying PTSA's motion to intervene.

The PTSA wants the Ninth Circuit to reverse Manglona's order that denied its motion to intervene in the Radich couple's lawsuit.

In her March 28, 2016, ruling, Manglona declared unconstitutional the CNMI gun control law that prohibits all residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes.

In response, the CNMI passed Public Law 19-42, SAFE Act, which removes the ban on possession of handguns and establishes new rules for transporting and using firearms.

The PTSA then filed a motion to intervene for purposes of appeal in the Radich couple's lawsuit. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

**HELPING RED CROSS FULFILL ITS MISSION**

Over the past 30 days, soldiers of the 9th Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve, assigned to Joint Task Group-Saipan, Task Force West helped the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter distribute over 100,000 relief items to families throughout Saipan. With their can-do attitude and dedication, these soldiers completed their mission and helped support families in need who were impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu. "We are incredibly grateful to the U.S. Army for deploying these soldiers to assist the Red Cross," said Luong Huynh from the Red Cross team. "These soldiers were focused on success and made it happen for our community and the Red Cross."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# NMI businesses working with DOL during recovery

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente recently appeared before the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership and announced that the CNMI Department of Labor has already been receiving notices from local businesses severely impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu.

In her report, several businesses adversely affected by Super Typhoon Yutu are unable to meet payroll, which has prompted CNMI DOL to take significant measures to mitigate both infrastructural and economic losses.

E-Land (Kensington, Pacific Islands Club, Coral Ocean Point), POI Aviation, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC have notified CNMI DOL that they will lay off employees and reduce working hours.

"Several IPI employees recently staged a protest in front of the IPI facility in Garapan. Before the protest on Friday, about two dozen IPI employees visited the DOL office, and we are dealing with the situation thoroughly," said Benavente. "The DOL Enforcement Division is investigating the IPI employee protest and will provide an update shortly."

CNMI DOL surveyed more than 60 businesses with approximately 1,300 employees that are affected by the massive infrastructure damage on Saipan and Tinian, the closure of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, and the cancellation of visitor arrivals from key travel markets.

"Hundreds of residents are having to cope with the loss of their homes and personal belongings, on top of having their work hours reduced. CNMI DOL has taken proactive measures to ensure that employees' concerns will be addressed through a variety of programs that we requested and applied for from the U.S. Department of Labor," said Benavente.

These programs include the Disaster Unemployment Assistance, which has already seen 2,000 applications distributed and/or submitted to CNMI DOL.

USDOL and DUA staff will likely be on Saipan around the first week of December to assist in the administration of the program.

Majority of DUA applicants work in the following businesses: tour operators, casino, hotels, real estate, catering, poker arcade, and gas station. Job classifications include: mechanic, cook, driver, dealer, room attendants, and tour guides.

Unemployment numbers are being compiled by DOL in order to avail of the disaster benefits to be provided by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

CNMI residents are encouraged to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance at the DOL office at Springs Plaza, Middle Road, next to the Bank of Hawaii. Contact numbers are 664-1708 and 788-4180/4183. ***(PR)***

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# New DNAP site is 'perfect'—Hunter

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The new Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program site in Susupe was "perfect," according to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

DNAP, which moved to its new site at the Minachom Atdao across the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe yesterday, was ideal for the distribution of DNAP numbers, according to DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter.

The announcement to move the DNAP site from the NAP office in As Lito was made late Sunday evening.

"It's great," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the vehicular traffic in the larger four-lane roads in Susupe allowed vehicles to drive through the DNAP number distribution site in the pavilion while allowing others to drive through the area with little trouble.

"…[The traffic] would have been up in the [Nutritional Assistance Program office in As Lito] if we did not do this here and it would have clogged up that road," he said, adding that it would be troublesome since the Saipan International School is across the NAP office.

"That would've posed serious problems…It's perfect [here]," he said.

The new DNAP numbering site at the Minachom Atdao was able to accommodate both drive-throughs and walk-ins, Hunter noted.

"We have already knocked out all the remaining numbers for [today] and [tomorrow], and we are already giving out numbers for Thursday," he said, adding that the NAP office only entertained 1,700 numbers per day.

Hunter further noted that the original intent of the location change was to prevent camping out for benefits, which occurred last Sunday when residents started camping out of the NAP office as early as 6pm Saturday evening.

"There was no camping last [Sunday] night, which was the objective of moving it down here," he said, referring to the new location.

Hunter further reiterated that the camping that occurred last Saturday evening was unnecessary since there is enough DNAP benefits to go around.

"Anybody who qualifies is going to get assistance. You don't need to camp out. You might not be the first one to get DNAP benefits," he said, adding that eventually, if you were qualified, you would be receiving benefits.

# Nearly 1,000 lbs of Yutu trash collected in Garapan

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

An organization that collects trash in Garapan every month hauled off almost 1,000 lbs of trash from a small area in the Garapan tourist area last week.

The Saipan Awaodori Team, along with Kinpachi Restaurant staff, were able to collect 998 lbs of Typhoon Yutu trash that included green waste, white goods, and some e-waste during their monthly cleanup at the Paseo de Marianas.

"We couldn't get the larger pieces of trash," PDM Promoters, Inc. coordinator Sonia Siwa told *Saipan Tribune*. She noted that her small group of 23 Saipan Awaodori team members and nine Kinpachi Restaurant staff did some bush cutting in the area as well.

"We needed a trailer to gather the waste," she said. "The trash we collected fit our two pickups."

According to Siwa, the e-waste were left untouched, along with other pieces of debris that were too heavy to handle such as roofing tins, washing machines, cans, and more.

The group, which has been conducting monthly cleanups of the same route, has been consistently collecting at least 400 lbs of trash on a monthly basis.

Siwa noted that this month's collection was the largest the group has collected this year.

## HALFWAY

*From Page 1*

many places on Saipan, Deleon Guerrero pointed out that power has been restored to parts of the island just weeks after Yutu, nearly 100 percent of the island has running water, and the number of individuals seeking public shelter has been reduced to nearly half.

She said 100 of the 130 water wells on Saipan have been re-energized.

The CNMI government, in partnership with the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Marianas Young Professionals, continue to offer drinkable water.

Each household can avail of up to five 5-gallon water bottles today at the Mount Carmel School field from 9am to 12pm and at the Kagman Fire Station Five from 1pm to 4pm. Water containers are a requirement.

Although there is still no exact percentage on power restoration, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. stated that, as of yesterday, five out of the nine feeders that energize the island are either completely or partially online.

There has also been a massive drop in the number of shelterees since Super Typhoon Yutu.

Deleon Guerrero said that there were nearly 1,100 shelterees following Super Typhoon Yutu. As of last Saturday, the number has dropped to just 522 individuals.

The Public School System and the Northern Marianas College are also on target to resume classes in a few weeks.

Super Typhoon Yutu was reportedly the biggest typhoon to hit the Commonwealth since the 1960s, far bigger in magnitude and intensity than Super Typhoon Soudelor that left the Commonwealth in shambles back in 2015.

Many assumed that, as experienced following Soudelor, it would take months before the island would make it halfway through the restoration process but that has not been the case.

## FLIGHTS

*From Page 1*

Tuesday, at 3:10pm, from Incheon, Seoul, South Korea.

Kim said China Eastern Airlines will resume flights Wednesday at 12:30am from Beijing, China.

Beijing Capital Airlines will arrive Thursday at 3:30pm from Hangzhou, China.

Hong Kong Airlines will resume flights Thursday at 12:30am from Hong Kong.

Sichuan Airlines will also arrive Thursday at 4:10am from Shanghai, China.

Kim said they will greet and give shell leis to the passengers from all these flights at the airport.

MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion said MVA and their offshore representative offices have been in discussion with all airlines servicing the CNMI to have them resume services as soon as possible.

Given the airport's inability to accept night flights until just last Nov. 20, Concepcion said they have been waiting patiently and pushing aggressively to have airlines resume flights to the CNMI as airlines are essentially the lifeblood of the tourism industry.

"Without airlines we have no tourists," he said.

Concepcion noted that they had some uncertainty in the beginning but they are very pleased to see the airlines resume flights to the CNMI.

"It goes to show that the CNMI remains a valuable destination for airlines in our region," he said.

Concepcion said MVA has offered full support to all airlines operating international flights to Saipan in terms of aggressive marketing of the CNMI to help boost load factors and yield.

Hong Kong Express was the first commercial airline to resume international flights to the CNMI after Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction last Oct. 24 and 25, which shut down the Saipan airport. The airline company arrived last Friday with full load of 180 passengers.

Four MVA marketing staff greeted and gave shell leis to the first batch of tourists at the airport.

Super Typhoon Yutu slammed into Saipan and Tinian on Oct. 24 and 25

## DNAP

*From Page 1*

"It's an estimate," said DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter yesterday, referring to the 12,000 projected participants. "The number is flexible."

"These are paper numbers. If we run out of the numbers, we would go print some more… We will get everybody," he added.

DNAP numbers on the first day of issuance last Sunday nearly tripled the planned 1,700 limit.

Hunter noted that over 4,800 numbers were issued on the first day of number assignments. As of 10:30am yesterday, the DNAP numbers were already in the high 7,000's.

He further noted that at least 2,000 applicants were processed last Sunday evening.

"We are ahead of the game," Hunter told *Saipan Tribune*.

Volunteers were stationed in front of the NAP office in As Lito for the first issuance of DNAP numbers as very long lines were expected. Some have already reported having obtained their food stamps, which varies per household.

According to a previous press release, DNAP is budgeted at over $8.5 million.

According to Hunter, the DCCA calculates NAP benefits in a "high-end" manner, meaning they expect families to get a large benefit from NAP. He further clarified that DNAP is no different from NAP projections in terms of process.

"…We always project high-end, not only in terms of number of households but in terms of the [benefits] that we put in this to make sure we cover everything," he said.

"We always project high to make sure we do not run into trouble," he added, assuring that there is plenty to go around.

## ARRIVALS

*From Page 1*

resumed normal daytime operations on Nov. 15 and 24-hour operations on Nov. 20.

"The Marianas community and tourism industry are recovering rapidly from Super Typhoon Yutu, and we are keeping our tourism partners and potential visitors fully aware of all our progress," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Our initial estimates were that about 25 percent of hotels rooms were impacted, some of which have already come back online. In the meantime, we were extremely fortunate that many of our hotels, especially in central and northern Saipan, had little or no damage and are operating as usual. With the reopening of the Saipan airport, we are looking forward to the full restoration of our tourism economy. Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have a wonderful spirit of community and resiliency, our mountains have turned green again, and our ocean and sky are just as blue as ever. The Marianas is still a beautiful place to visit, and we warmly welcome back our visitors."

Arrivals from Korea dropped 36 percent in October to 15, 552 visitors. Direct flights from Korea will resume on Nov. 27 with daily time flights from Incheon by Jeju Air. Asiana Airlines will resume its nighttime flights from Seoul on Dec. 20. At this time, the resumption of Jeju's and T'way Air's night time flights from Incheon remain suspended until March 2019. Flights from Busan have also yet to resume.

With the loss of 17 weekly charter flights from mainland China, arrivals from the country dropped 22 percent in October to 13,708. However, HK Express resumed service from Hong Kong on Nov. 23, and other flights from cities in mainland China including Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hangzhou are scheduled to resume beginning today, Nov. 26. Some flights have already been fully booked as the MVA and its tourism partners work toward the yearend holiday season.

Arrivals from Japan were 90 percent lower in the month at 334 visitors, largely due to the cessation of direct flights from the country to the Marianas in May 2018. Radio station FM NACK5 had originally scheduled to bring 80 listeners on a "Breath of Earth for Saipan" incentive tour; due to Super Typhoon Yutu, the tour has been rescheduled to March 2019. Also, the Kyobun College of Tokyo Judo Therapy has announced that, in support of Saipan following Yutu, they will bring 50 student therapist volunteers and their families to support Saipan Marathon 2019. Skymark Airlines is still scheduled to begin direct flights from Tokyo in 2019.

Further details of the destination's post-typhoon tourism recovery plan will be shared by the MVA at its general membership meeting on Dec. 14, 2018, at 10am at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Interested individuals may reserve a seat by emailing MVA Community Projects coordinator Demalynn Pagarao at dpagarao@mymarianas or calling 664-3210.

### Economic highlights

South Korea's 3rd quarter growth was 2 percent, the lowest year-on-year gain since the third quarter of 2009. The sluggish result was announced a week after the Bank of Korea revised down its growth target for 2018 from 2.9 percent to 2.7 percent. The average USD/won exchange rate in October was 1129.53 won, a slight increase from the previous rate of 1119.65 won in September.

In September 2018, the China national consumer price index increased by 2.5 percent than previous year. Prior to Typhoon Yutu, data platform Mafengwo Travel reported that Saipan was among the top island destinations in October, along with Hong Kong, Bangkok, Phuket, Nha Trang, Tokyo, Bali, Singapore, Osaka, and Kyoto.

Japan's annual inflation rate edged down to 1.2 percent in September 2018 from 1.3 percent in the previous month, mainly due to lower prices of food. It is the second-highest figure in the last seven months. ***(PR)***

# MVA undecided on Christmas lights along Beach Road

The Marianas Visitors Authority had originally planned to put up holiday lights along Chalan Pale Arnold Road or Middle Road—a first time ever—but now the MVA can't decide at this time whether to proceed with the project.

With Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction on Saipan and Tinian, a similar plan to install Christmas lights on Beach Road is also uncertain.

MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion disclosed that they had planned to put up Christmas lights along Middle Road for the first time this year to lessen its industrial and commercial look.

However, Concepcion said, with many debris scattered along Middle Road and Beach Road, with power not fully restored in many areas, and with many vendors unable to install them due to multiple reasons, the MVA is unable to decide at this time whether they will proceed with plans to install the holiday lights.

He said their efforts will be concentrated on illuminating Paseo de Marianas and its surrounding areas so the main tourist district in Garapan is lit up for tourists and residents.

"We feel this is the best use of our limited resources at this time, given the destruction and the significant drop in tourist arrivals we received as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu," he said.

MVA earlier announced the cancellation of the annual "Christmas in the Marianas" at Paseo de Marianas this December, due to the catastrophic destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu.

The MVA, however, still plans to go ahead and decorate the Paseo de Marianas with giant holiday sculptures, thousands of lights and other holiday-themed decorations to allow tourists and residents to regain a sense of normalcy and feel the holiday spirit.

With the cancellation of Christmas in the Marianas, Concepcion is encouraging everyone in the CNMI to decorate their surroundings so that children can "become upbeat, optimistic and cheerful about the Christmas season." *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

# UOG SPED students check out Palau

The latest cohort of master's degree candidates studying special education at the University of Guam concluded their degree program by traveling to Palau to share classroom curricula that they developed with teachers and parents of students with disabilities.

"This was a first-time achievement for the UOG School of Education Special Education program. It yielded positive results for both the graduate students and the partnering program of Palau," said UOG assistant professor Suzanne Bells, who led the cohort.

The School of Education cohort partnered with the Belau Head Start program of Palau, a federal program that supports the early childhood education of low-income children and children with disabilities. The program has 21 teachers and 17 assistant teachers and serves 350 children.

The educators in the Head Start program had expressed concern about having limited resources and supplies to make adaptations and modifications to their curriculum for children with disabilities.

"The UOG School of Education graduate students wanted to bridge the gap across the Marianas and Micronesia. They wanted to provide professional development for teachers and families to ensure that children with disabilities receive the education they deserve," Bells said.

From Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, a group of nine students presented their capstone research project—"Building Bridges for Our Island Students"—to educators and parents in Palau. The project included research topic presentations, distribution of materials, including classroom supplies and USB drives, and participant assessments by UOG professor Velma Sablan and assistant professors Catherine Cardenas and Jacquelyn Cyrus.

Six of the graduate students provided Head Start teachers with six different curricula, each modified for specific disabilities. The other three students provided parents of children with disabilities three different learning curricula to supplement what the children learn in the classroom.

Gilbert Mangosong, one of the students in the cohort, said meeting the Palauan educators was humbling for him.

"While they don't have many resources, they still do what they need to do to educate their students. I come back here and look what we have. We have more. The takeaway is that I need to reevaluate myself as a teacher. If they can do it with less, I can do it as well," he said.

Bells said the capstone project gave the students real-life experiences that will be valuable in properly recognizing and supporting their special education students.

"These are certified teachers in the program gaining advanced knowledge and applications in the field of special education to advance their careers," she said.

The graduate students will receive their master's degrees in special education at the Fanuchånan 2018 commencement. *(PR)*

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Red Cross service center at Marianas Business Plaza

The American Red Cross continues to meet with families at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. In an effort to reduce lines and wait times, Red Cross is issuing color-coded tickets with time blocks for a specific day. Once an individual receives a ticket they will need to return to the service center at the assigned day/time to meet with a Red Cross caseworker. Red Cross is planning to be at this location until at least Wednesday, Nov. 28; however, the needs of the community will drive how long this site is open. Service center hours are from 9am to 6pm. *(PR)*

### Drinkable water distribution

The CNMI government will be providing drinkable water today, Nov. 27, at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral field from 9am to 12pm, and at the Kagman Fire Station 5, from 1pm to 4pm. Residents must bring their own clean water containers. There is a limit of five 5-gallon containers per household. *(PR)*

### FHB adjusts Saipan branch hours

Effective yesterday, Nov. 26, all First Hawaiian Bank branches on Saipan will be open during the weekdays from 9am to 3pm until further notice.

First Hawaiian Bank customers with Internet connectivity may access their account information online via FHB Online and Mobile or may contact the bank's Customer Service Call Center for at 1-888-844-4444. FHB's Saipan branches are at the Gualo Rai Commercial Center on Middle Road and Oleai Center on Beach Road. *(PR)*

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TOGETHER WE'RE STRONGER

# Guam Filipino community reaches out to Saipan

Super Typhoon Yutu, with its ferocious, Category 5 gusts, tore through the Northern Mariana Islands on Oct. 25, leaving behind devastated families, many having lost their homes and belongings.

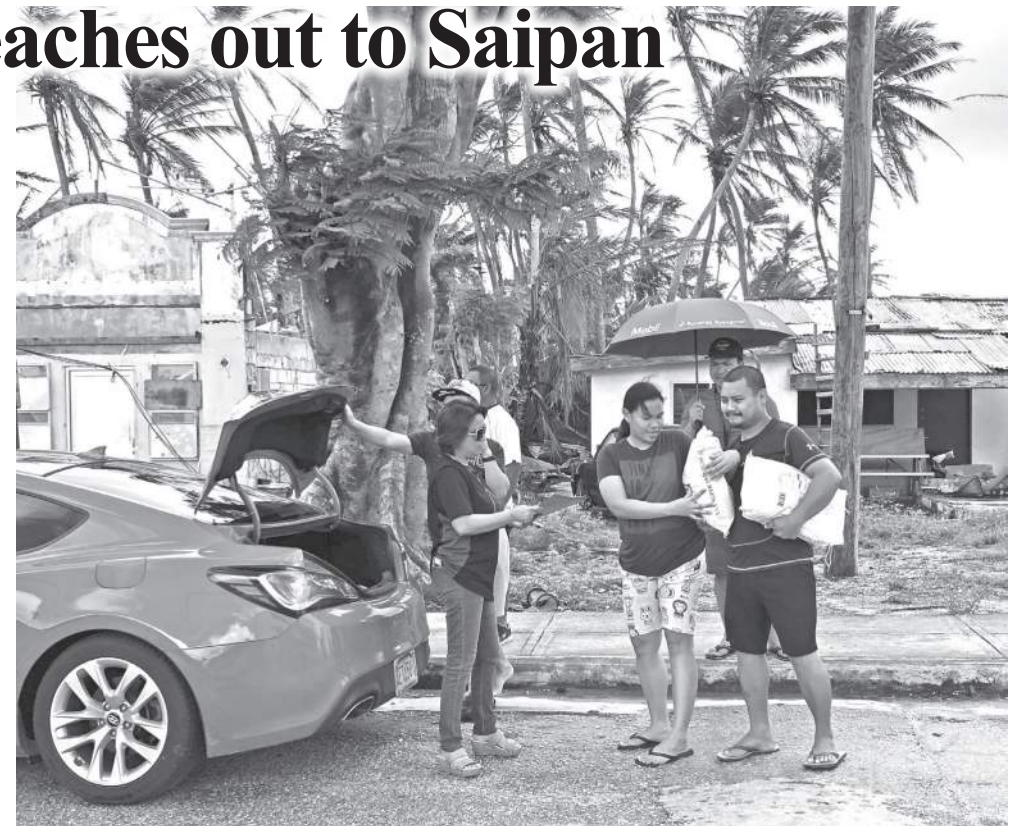
Some of these survivors—about 500 Filipino households—recently benefited from a donation from Guam's Filipino community, which raised a total of $3,200.

Guam's Barangay 671 donated $2,000; the Batangas and Southern Tagalog Association donated $1,000; James Casalo donated $200, and the team of Philippine honorary consul Eli Arago donated $1,800. The money was used to buy and distribute 500 bags of 20-lb rice.

One typhoon survivor, Nenita, said: "This morning, I was thinking of getting at least 10 lbs of rice to keep my family through for the week. But I said, 'I don't have $10 to buy for even a small bag of rice.' Then I saw right in front of [my makeshift] house [the consular team] handing out rice."

"Thank you, God. He really never sleeps," she added.

Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Eli Arago, fourth from left, led Saturday's relief outreach to various locations on Saipan. He was assisted by his core volunteers and the United Filipino Organizations.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Volunteer Anamae Adaza, along with volunteers Wilfred Abu and Jack Lie, hand out rice bags in Oleai.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For Rose, it was an early Christmas gift. "Thank you, thank you for this early Christmas gift."

These and many more expressions of joy greeted the core volunteer team of the Philippine Honorary Consulate Office and the United Filipino Organizations of the CNMI in their daylong outreach to affected Filipino households.

Led by Arago, the core volunteer team drove and walked through some hard-to-reach residential areas last Saturday in Koblerville, San Antonio, Afetna, As Lito, Dandan, Chalan Kanoa, San Vicente, south Garapan, Oleai, and China Town. These are some of the villages that bore the brunt of Yutu's devastation.

"We saw the [extent of the] devastation during our outreach. What is also worth noting is the continued outpouring of support to help our families here," Arago said. "We saw how donations from outside the CNMI and volunteer work continue to uplift the lives of our community."

"I would like to express my deepest appreciation to our Guam Filipino community for their support and assistance. There is just so much to be thankful for," he added. ***(PR)***


**NMPASI**
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals for the financial and compliance audit for fiscal year ending **September 30, 2018**. NMPASI is designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect people's rights, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the financial and compliance audit shall be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than December 14, 2018. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;
2. OMB Circular A-133; and
3. Compliance with the general Requirements Applicable to Federal Financial Assistance Program.

Award will be based on specific factor such as prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. The contract for this audit will be awarded no later than **December 21, 2018**, and a final audit report shall be completed by March 15, 2019. A list of specific audit requirements and Agency's profile are available at NMPASI office, Gualo Rai. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Mr. James Rayphand, Executive Director at Tel 235-7273.



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
Office of the Executive Director

## EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
### CUC-RFP-19-007, REV.1

**Restoration of Electric Power Distribution System on Saipan Following Super Typhoon Yutu**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced contractors to design, restore and commission (including without limitation all design, engineering, supervision, materials procurement and mobilization, installation, testing, commissioning and handover) of its power distribution system on Saipan as more fully described in the Statement of Work.

The solicitation seeks proposals from legally recognized business entities authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (or which will be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth before execution of the agreement) to restore and rebuild its electric power distribution grid on Saipan.

The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided emailed to the interested parties upon request, or may be downloaded fromwww.cucgov.org/procurement/available-bids-and-rfp/. Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **November 27, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A site survey of the affected areas by Prospective Proposers is highly recommended. Prospective Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions and do their own preliminary assessments prior to submitting the proposal. A site survey of affected areas will be provided upon request to CUC, Power T&D Division. Please email Power Division Manager, Lee Lieto via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org for scheduling.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies,** along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-007, REV.1 – RESTORATION OF ELECTRIC POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON SAIPAN FOLLOWING SUPER TYPHOON YUTU"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than November 30, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due in whole or in part to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under any anticipated contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including without limitation any and all excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. In particular, Contractors will be required to execute a contract which contains required provisions in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 and which are set forth in Exhibit D to the Contract which is included the RFP package.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

Proposers are advised that this project is being procured as an emergency procurement under the authority of the Hon. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pursuant to 1 CMC §20144 (c) and the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and that ordinary procurement regulations do not apply. Time is of the essence in order to restore power to the people of Saipan. As such, no protests will be entertained.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**
**Executive Director**

# Japanese WWII bomb storages cleaned

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

World War II-era bomb storages on Saipan were recently cleaned up, with several organizations closely aligned with the tourism industry in the CNMI banding together to do the cleanup.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, Japan-Saipan Travel Association, and the Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association last Nov. 16, 2018 banded together to clean up the World War II Japanese bomb storage magazines near the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The venue, a significant historicsite in the CNMI, was also damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu.

"…It is our obligation, being a part of this wonderful community, to help in restoring the beauty, safety, and cleanliness of our islands," Japanese Society of the NMI chair Masato Tezuka told *Saipan Tribune*.

"The monster [Super] Typhoon Yutu left our islands devastated, leaving fallen trees, rubble, and debris everywhere," he noted, adding that the organizations decided to clean the area not only because it is a sacred memorial but also in preparation for the re-opening of the airport.

"We cleaned up by cutting fallen trees, clearing the roads, and picking up the trash," he said. "We are very happy to support the CNMI with the help of our partners in business such as the MVA, JASTA, and NMDOA."

The Saipan airport welcomed HK Express flights last Nov. 23, 2018.

**SKYWALKER COMMUNICATIONS DONATION** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Skywalker Communications has donated $4,000 to Karidat's Super Typhoon Yutu Long-Term Recovery Mission. In the immediate aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, many groups in the Marianas stepped up to get out immediate disaster aid to the struggling individuals and families who lost so much when the winds blew away their homes and their everyday lives. Skywalker understands that the recovery from this devastating typhoon will take months, if not years. Karidat, on behalf of those with long-term needs, welcomes this donation by Skywalker Communications Group.

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# DNAP Assistance

Cars line up for the issuance of disaster nutrition assistance program numbers yesterday at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion, reaching as far as the Quartermaster Road.

ERWIN ENCINARES

The walk-in line yesterday afternoon at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion was significantly reduced after lunch.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Several members of the Department of Public Safety assist in the issuance of Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program numbers yesterday at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion.

ERWIN ENCINARES

A sea of people show up for the first day of DNAP number distributions last Sunday at the Nutritional Assistance Program office in As Lito.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Walk-in lines for the second day of DNAP number distributions at the Minachom Atdao were not as long as Sunday's.

ERWIN ENCINARES

# Relief Efforts

**PHOTOS By STAFF SGT. JAMES KENNEDY BENJAMIN**

A Guam Army National Guardsman raises the bed of a military tactical vehicle to offload roofing tin at a recycling center in Lower Base, Saipan on Nov. 25, 2018. Initial assessments estimated 374,000 cubic yards of debris were caused by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Saipan public workers pick up debris from inside the Northern Marianas College on Nov. 2, 2018.

A recycling center puts out a sign designating a tin roof dumping area in Lower Base on Nov. 25, 2018.

U.S. Army Reserve soldiers with the 9th Mission Support Command, currently assigned to Joint Task Group-Saipan, Task Force-West, prepare their military vehicles for daily mission assignments in support of Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts at the U.S. Army Reserve Center on Saipan last Nov. 16, 2018.

A 9th Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve, military tactical vehicle pulls up to be weighed and documented by Department of Public Works staff at the Marpi landfill station on Saipan on Nov. 25, 2018, before off-loading a pile of green waste.

A Guam Army National Guardsman releases tie straps from a military tactical vehicle for commercial heavy equipment operators to grab roofing tin off the truck bed at a recycling center in Lower Base on Nov. 25, 2018. The GUARNG and 9th Mission Support Command Saipan, working with the Department of Public Works and the Saipan Mayor's Office personnel, have collected more than 11,000 cubic yards of debris along primary and secondary roads.

U.S. Air Force airmen with the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and Army Reserve soldiers with the 9th Mission Support Command work together to move a 500-gallon water tank at the Garapan Fishing Base last Nov. 6, 2018.

Bishop Ryan Jimenez, center, bishop for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, takes a photo with 9th Mission Support Command soldiers and Guam Air National Guardsmen at the U.S. Army Reserve Center on Saipan on Nov. 25, 2018, after celebrating Sunday Mass.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 230

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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## EDITORIAL

# What Facebook needs most: competition

A familiar pattern has emerged over the past decade with Facebook. A journalistic investigation or a watchdog group shows the world's most popular social network—with more than 200 million users in the United States and more than 2.2 billion worldwide—has broken promises about safeguarding its users' privacy or protecting them from manipulation by malign forces. Facebook co-founder and main owner Mark Zuckerberg apologizes for mistakes and promises his company will do better.

This week, The New York Times published perhaps the most damning story yet. It showed that Zuckerberg and his chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg's approach in reacting to outside criticism goes beyond a practice of apology, denial and deflection to include efforts to discredit critics. It also raised disturbing anti-Semitic issues; while Sandberg and Zuckerberg—who are both Jewish—denied knowing anything about it, The New York Times reported Facebook hired a conservative opposition-research firm to link critics of the company to George Soros, a Jewish billionaire who is a powerful advocate of progressive causes and a frequent subject of right-wing conspiracy theories. Facebook severed ties with the firm following the report.

This is appalling. Facebook may have used the same smear tactics and disinformation as the alt-right groups it promised to prevent from using Facebook to spread hate. This shows the lengths the company will go to protect its business model of monetizing private information.

Some thoughtful observers think relatively small steps could protect users' privacy. Having easy, concise rules requiring users to opt in before their information is shared and allowing those who opt in to see exactly what information about them Facebook has gathered may be ideas worth pursuing.

But any assumption that smart regulation can reduce how Facebook is used to manipulate people has a huge problem: If Facebook were regulated as a media company and attempts were made to force it to do far more in policing content, that would very likely violate what Vox called "the internet's version of biblical law"—a reference to Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act. It holds that publishers (and internet service providers) can't be held liable for what users do on their websites.

Yet if Facebook were regulated as a tech company—as Zuckerberg hopes—then questions over the content it facilitates wouldn't even be germane.

So what to do about a company that's both hugely popular and inherently flawed? Perhaps the most promising idea comes from basic capitalism: hoping a deep-pockets, well-conceived competitor to Facebook emerges. A rival online portal with the same key features as Facebook—but one that kept promises about privacy—could succeed.

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MIKE SMITH
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WITH SO MUCH DISAGREEMENT AND DIVISION, I'M WORRIED ABOUT OUR DEMOCRACY, OUR INSTITUTIONS, OUR DISCOURSE—
OUR THANKSGIVING.

# To lessen climate change, educate the public

**By VINOD THOMAS**
The Baltimore Sun

*Vinod Thomas is author of a 2018 book* Climate Change and Natural Disasters *(Routledge) and a former senior vice president at the World Bank. This was written for the* Baltimore Sun.

As extreme weather strikes with greater frequency and ferocity—especially on the East and West coasts of the U.S.—media attention rightly focuses on the often heroic response of the emergency services. What is missing from these accounts, however, is a similar emphasis on climate change as a source of the increasing extremity of these events, and consequently, on preventing ever-worsening weather calamities. It is even more problematic when the causes of these events are misdiagnosed, as when the president attributed California's worst forest fires ever to "poor forest management."

The upshot of failing to make the climate change connection is that actions continue to be limited to dealing with disasters after they strike without taking urgent steps to contain runaway global warming. As climate inaction continues, weather disasters are poised to reach a point where no amount of good management will be enough. The 2018 report from the United Nations is clear: Human actions and greenhouse gas emissions are contributing to global warming, and unless the planet's temperature increase (from pre-industrial times) is kept to below 1.5 degrees centigrade, weather catastrophes will go over the tipping point.

There are many policy and technological avenues for climate mitigation, but they all start with a change in our mindsets to link the new weather extremes to global warming. That is necessary if a winning political platform for climate action is to be created. Political support and resources for climate abatement will unleash the innovation and adaptation in ways we may not have anticipated. This has been seen time and again in other global crises, be it tackling terrorism or pandemics, where treating the problem had to be complemented by attending to the root causes.

But unlike terrorism and pandemics, climate change presents a fuzzier—and potentially deadlier—chain that connects cause and effect. The effects of climate change still tend to be viewed as something over the horizon rather than here and now. This perception must change: In 2017 and 2018 the worst floods and fires on record were seen not only across the globe but on United States' soil in California, Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

In addition to drawing broad links between anthropogenic warming and disaster trends, scientists are also beginning to attribute the higher probability of individual events to climate change, for example, the 2017 Hurricane Harvey in Texas, the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and the 2013 Australian heat waves.

Drawing on this type of evidence, news reporters must make the climate-disaster connection so that people see the extremity of the episodes as manifestations of global warming. The resulting shift in understanding should also trigger a political movement to see climate action as a pro-progress agenda, and a political platform that can help win elections. Florida's Democratic candidate for governor, Andrew Gillum, developed a plan to preserve the state's natural resources, curb harmful blue-green algal blooms and red tide, and invest in renewable energy to fight climate change. We need to see environmental agendas like this among the criteria for winning elections.

To spur action, we also need to view weather disasters as local affairs. The wildfires that swept across the town of Paradise in California in just eight hours are every bit local. So is Hurricane Michael, which hammered Florida's Panhandle. These events also need to be seen as national disasters rather than natural disasters. The United States is the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases after China. The lowering of power plant emissions standards by the administration and encouraging the use of fossil fuels will only aggravate sea-level rises along the country's long coastlines.

Television and newspapers have the biggest bully pulpit in the United States. The current administration's policies show a reckless disregard for the factors behind the increase in weather disasters, endangering the well-being of people for years to come. The media can make a difference in this unfavorable setting by connecting the dots between climate and disasters in real time and helping to make environmental care a live political agenda.

If enough people recognize the true climate-disaster link, positive actions will follow.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Why the US won't sanction Saudi

**By THOMAS L. KNAPP**
Sun Sentinel

*Thomas L. Knapp is director and senior news analyst at the William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism.*

"We may never know all of the facts surrounding the murder of Mr. Jamal Khashoggi," President Donald Trump told the nation Nov. 20, but "the United States intends to remain a steadfast partner of Saudi Arabia to ensure the interests of our country, Israel and all other partners in the region."

Many find the president's statement curious given the seeming consensus among the Turkish and U.S. intelligence communities that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman ordered Khashoggi's killing at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. But two simple numbers clarify just how much importance successive administrations, including Trump's, have placed on the U.S.-Saudi relationship.

The first number is one.

Jamal Khashoggi was one man. He was a Saudi citizen, and considered an enemy of the state by "his" government. He was neither a U.S. citizen, nor was he killed on U.S. soil. He was technically killed on Saudi soil _ consulates have the same "sovereign" status as embassies. His killing, while evil and tragic, was really not any more the business of the U.S. government than the execution of an American in Texas would be Mohammed bin Salman's concern.

The second number is 2,977.

That's how many people 19 hijackers (15 of them Saudis) killed (excluding themselves) at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001.

No later than December 2002, and presumably before that, the U.S. government knew that the hijackers had received significant funding and support from Saudi government officials and members of the Saudi royal family.

That information remained classified until 2016, when 28 previously redacted pages from Congress' report were finally released to the public _ and still "friendly" relations between Washington and Riyadh continued without interruption.

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan (none of the hijackers were Afghans) in response to the Sept. 11 attacks.

The U.S. government insinuated a relationship between al-Qaida and Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq as part of its justification for invading that country in 2003 (none of the hijackers were Iraqis, and al-Qaida was among Hussein's most implacable enemies).

But Saudi Arabia got a free pass, as did the United Arab Emirates, from which two of the hijackers came.

Why? Oil, money, and U.S. foreign policy.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE control a great deal of the world's oil, and can threaten to disrupt international oil markets (and international life in general) any time they don't get their way.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE are also the top two buyers of U.S. weapons.

Finally, Saudi Arabia and the UAE support the U.S. agenda of isolating Iran and frustrating its regime's regional ambitions, and allow the U.S. military to operate bases on their territory pursuant to that agenda.

Next to those considerations, 2,977 killings on U.S. soil, most of them of Americans, didn't matter to George W. Bush or to Barack Obama.

Nor do those 2,977 killings, let alone the killing of one Saudi journalist in a Saudi consulate, matter to Donald Trump.

But they should.

# Why Trump should fear Joe Biden

**By RICH LOWRY**
King Features Synd., Inc.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the* National Review.

Joe Biden is a gaffe-prone 75-year-old Washington veteran—who is exactly what Democrats need.

The suburbs have turned against Republicans, but Donald Trump's working-class base is still with him in a geographic and demographic stand-off that will—absent a game-changer—define the 2020 election.

The play for Democrats should be obvious: Make a serious appeal to Trump's voters, take back the Blue Wall states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, and win the presidency. In other words, go with Joe Biden or someone like him with a Midwestern or working-class sensibility (newly re-elected Sens. Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota come to mind).

His gruff manner, Catholic faith, Irish ethnic background, union-friendly politics and upbringing in Delaware via Pennsylvania make him as close as the contemporary national Democratic Party gets to a working-class match for the Great Lakes states that Trump stole from it in 2016.

From this juncture, those states again look absolutely crucial. If the rest of the electoral map stays the same, Democrats need to win all three of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania to take back the White House. Even if they pick off 2016 red states Arizona and Georgia, they still need Michigan or Pennsylvania to get over 270.

Conversely, it's hard to see where Trump goes and wins new territory to make up for the loss of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Trump didn't win those three states by much, by about 80,000 votes collectively. More than anything, he depended on running against a Democratic candidate who was unacceptable to working-class whites. Right now, it looks like he needs a repeat performance by the Democrats, and he may well get one.

The Democrats don't usually do old and familiar, at least not when they win. The last three Democratic presidents, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, were fresh-faced newcomers on the national scene.

And then, there are the party's new obsessions. Class has been trumped by race and gender, and as a white male Biden is 0-2. Inequality is now less of a motivator than intersectionality, economic privilege less of a concern than white privilege. This was a stumbling block for the class-obsessed Bernie Sanders last time, and would surely hamper Biden and Sherrod Brown in today's even more fevered context.

The Democrats are not set up to go with, in the derisive phrase, stale, pale and male. Perhaps they can find another Barack Obama-type candidate who lights up the base while having just enough draw for working-class whites. There also is more than one way to win back the Blue Wall—higher black turnout could make the difference.

But there's a good chance that Democrats will get consumed by the hot-house dynamic of their nominating process, and select someone who, like those defeated progressive darlings of the midterms—Beto O'Rourke, Stacey Abrams and Andrew Gillum—is better suited to going down in a blaze of glory rather than winning over an increment of Trump voters.

If so, Joe Biden will be one of the few people in American history who could have won two straight presidential elections—in theory.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Election observations

I offer the following observations with respect to the article in this paper, titled "CEC mum on Dems' allegations."

NMI Democrats delivered a straightforward letter to the Commonwealth Election Commission identifying substantial issues and requesting "immediate" access to documents and records that potentially could confirm the regularity of the election or on the other hand demonstrate existence of grounds for an election contest.

We did not ask the CEC to make copies of documents or do anything else that would require electricity. Emphasizing the fact that CEC has no generator is quite simply nothing more than an excuse and evasion.

If we are to call it what it is, the CEC is stonewalling.

For that matter, what excuse does the governor's office have for not supplying CEC with a generator not only during the election but continuously thereafter? It looks at least a bit like a calculated deprivation of electricity.

Election contests have short, strict jurisdictional filing deadlines. By refusing to provide answers to questions and access to documents promptly, the CEC effectively makes it impossible for concerned voters to make informed decisions on whether or not to file an election contest.

Moreover, the CEC's own regulations make clear that citizen concerns about elections demand immediacy, not delay. Regulations require the executive director or chairman of the commission to "immediately review the substance of the complaint" upon "receipt of an oral or written complaint."

Regulations also require the executive director to "immediately consult with the attorney general or an assistant attorney general to determine how the complaint should be investigated."

Finally, regulations explicitly provide that "election irregularity complaints shall be treated as extremely time sensitive" and require the executive director or the commission to "immediately begin the procedure set forth in this part to investigate and prevent irregularities."

The regulation also explicitly states that it applies "to complaints made both before and after an election has taken place."

The Open Government Act does not require government agencies to wait 10 days before providing access to documents and records. It establishes a 10-day maximum deadline for compliance with a request. The executive director's decision (or compliance with someone else's demand) to hide behind the OGA timetable is an obvious attempt to resist transparency. The question is why is the CEC unwilling to bring everything out into the light of day immediately? What do they need time for?

We also might ask why it was that we went into the 2018 general election with four vacancies on the commission.

**Stephen C. Woodruff**
*CEO, NMI Democrats*

# *Si yuus maase*, thank you

First, I would like to give *un sen dangkulu na si yuus maase* and thank you to God for keeping us alive and safe during Super Typhoon Yutu on Oct. 25, 2018. We have lost our homes and valuable belongings and whatnot but we did not lose our faith in God. Materials can be salvaged but our lives are very valuable and precious. May the woman who lost her life during the Super Typhoon Yutu rest in peace.

Perhaps, the effect of this super typhoon will make us a better person. We might be more caring, loving, respectful, understanding, patient, service-oriented, etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt and deepest appreciation, gratitude and *si yuus maase* to all organizations and volunteers for leaving their families and loved ones to offer their services for our recovery efforts. Also, to those who have donated from all over the world out of their open hearts and generosity, we also say thank you.

I would also like to express my deepest *si yuus maase* to President Trump for approving our disaster declaration and providing us the services of the different branches of the U.S. armed forces. I would also like to thank the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross, both the U.S. and CNMI chapters, the World Health Organization, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crew and linemen from different areas having sleepless nights in trying their very best to restore our power and water, the Salvation Army, and many others who are too numerous to mention.

Lastly, I would like to thank Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann T. Torres for their sacrifices day in and day out to ensure the safety and needs of our people.

God bless America and the CNMI!

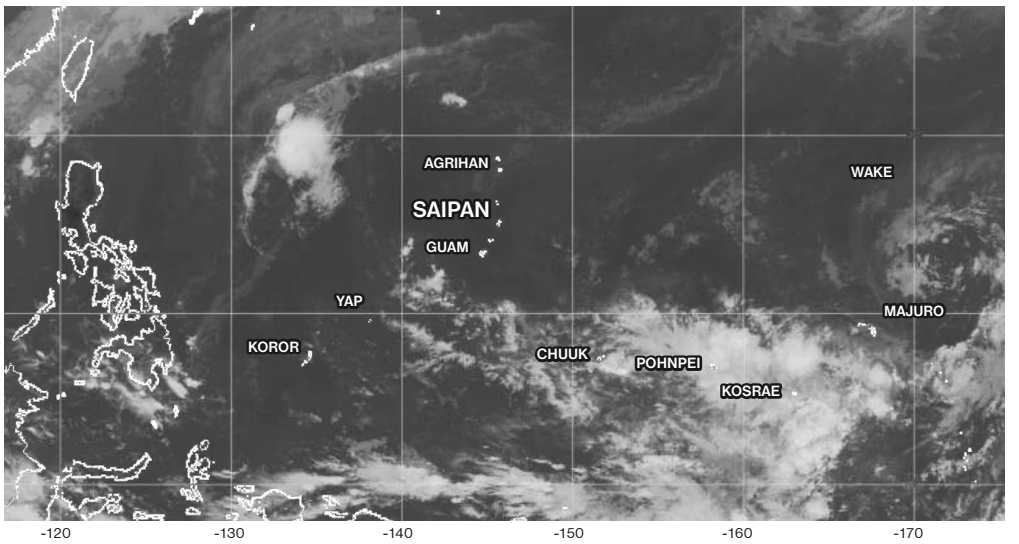
**Winnie C. Camacho**
*Kagman, Saipan*

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲89° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲88° ▼77° | ▲86° ▼76° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 6:42 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Last night scatterometer data showed a weak surface trough over the Marianas. Lingering clouds from the trough were over the area but satellite imagery showed them quickly eroding. Earlier forecast had mostly cloudy skies through the morning...but nixed that because of the satellite imagery. Dry weather will prevail through Tuesday night as deep layer 700 mb relative humidity sinks well below 50 percent. A series of weak surface troughs will bring mostly cloudy skies and isolated showers to the Marianas Wednesday and Wednesday night and again on Thursday Friday and Friday night. There may be enough instability to produce a few thunderstorms with the trough on Wednesday and Wednesday night. A ridge of high pressure passing to the north of the region will increase the Pressure Gradient across the Mariana. This will cause slightly elevated wind speeds of 10 to 20 mph today through Thursday.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 85° / 77° |
| Yap | Showers | 86° / 80° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 86° / 76° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 86° / 76° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 87° / 81° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | 70° / 57° |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | 46° / 25° |
| Hong Kong | Cloudy | 72° / 66° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 82° / 73° |
| London | Cloudy | 48° / 45° |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | 65° / 50° |
| Manila | Mostly Sunny | 90° / 77° |
| Melbourne | Showers | 70° / 54° |
| Miami | Showers | 77° / 54° |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | 47° / 33° |
| Osaka | Mostly Sunny | 66° / 52° |
| Paris | Showers | 45° / 41° |
| Busan | Mostly Sunny | 59° / 39° |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | 57° / 45° |
| Salem | Mostly Cloudy | 59° / 45° |
| San Francisco | Rain | 58° / 52° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 48° / 28° |
| Tokyo | Mostly Sunny | 64° / 52° |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | 45° / 31° |

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrime stoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | FEET |
|---|---|
| 4:22 AM | LOW TIDE | -0.53 |
| 11:35 AM | HIGH TIDE | 2.00 |
| 5:11 PM | LOW TIDE | 1.24 |
| 9:41 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.83 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:24 AM | 5:44 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:25 AM | 5:44 PM |
| Thursday | 6:25 AM | 5:44 PM |
| Friday | 6:26 AM | 5:44 PM |
| Saturday | 6:26 AM | 5:44 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | - | 10:03 AM | 9:46 PM |
| Wednesday | - | 11:00 AM | 10:47 PM |
| Thursday | - | 11:52 AM | 11:47 PM |
| Friday | - | 12:41 AM | - |
| Saturday | 12:45 AM | 1:26 PM | - |

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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# FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

## DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 9:15am | 9:55am | Daily |
| UA105 | 4:45pm | 5:25pm | 2, 4 |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)** – *temporarily suspended*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 3:15am | 6:30am | Daily |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3401 | 4:30pm | 8:25pm | Daily *resume from Nov 27* |

*Temporarily suspended:*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW9308 | 1:10am | 4:10am | 3, 4 |
| TW308 | 1:35am | 5:20am | Daily |
| OZ626 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:40am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| TW9308 | 3:20am | 6:30am | 2 |
| TW9308 | 3:25am | 6:30am | 5 |
| 7C3403 | 4:35am | 8:25am | Daily |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)** – *resume from Nov 28*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:50am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)** – *resume from Nov 28*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JD396 | 7:30am | 11:00am | 1 |
| JD396 | 4:50pm | 7:55pm | 4 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)** – *resume from Nov 26*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8646 | 4:30am | 7:55am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)** – *resume from Nov 27*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:35am | 3, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117/183 | 9:15am | 9:40pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| UA117/183 | 9:15am | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA117/193 | 9:15am | 11:50pm | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR |
| UA105/183 | 4:45pm | 9:50pm | 2, 4 via GUM |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HX077 | 1:50am | 5:15am | 1, 4 *resume from Nov 28* |
| UO43 | 5:45am | 8:40am | 1, 3, 5, 7 *resume from Nov 22* |
| UA117/159 | 9:15am | 11:00pm | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM |
| UA105/159 | 4:45pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4 via GUM |

## ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 7:30am | 8:11am | Daily |
| UA104 | 3:00pm | 3:41pm | 2, 4 |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN** – *temporarily suspended*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 9:35pm | 2:00am+1 | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| 7C3452 | 10:05pm | 2:00am+1 | 1 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3402 | 10:10am | 3:30pm | Daily *resume from Nov 27* |

*Temporarily suspended:*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW9307 | 6:30pm | 12:10am+1 | 2, 3 |
| TW307 | 7:00pm | 12:35am+1 | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| TW307 | 7:05pm | 12:35am+1 | 1 |
| OZ625 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ625 | 8:20pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| TW9307 | 9:00pm | 2:20am+1 | 1 |
| TW9307 | 9:05pm | 2:25am+1 | 4 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1 | Daily |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN** – *resume from Nov 28*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8647 | 10:20pm | 4:50am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN** – *resume from Nov 28*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JD395 | 8:05am | 3:30pm | 4 |
| JD395 | 9:35pm | 5:00am+1 | 7 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN** – *resume from Nov 26*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8645 | 7:55pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |

**BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN** – *resume from Nov 27*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU763 | 4:40pm | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA182/174 | 12:40am | 8:11am+1 | 3, 6 via GUM |
| PR110/UA174 | 10:05pm | 8:11am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| UA192/174 | 10:30pm | 8:11am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR |
| UA184/174 | 10:55pm | 8:11am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |

**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HX076 | 5:15pm | 12:15am+1 | 3, 7 *resume from Nov 28* |
| UO42 | 6:50pm | 1:45am+1 | 7 *resume from Nov 22* |
| UO42 | 9:30pm | 4:25am+1 | 2, 4, 6 *resume from Nov 22* |
| UA116/174 | 11:45pm | 8:11am+1 | 2, 4, 6 via GUM |
| UA116/174 | 11:55pm | 8:11am+1 | 1, 3, 5 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 7:30AM | 8:00AM | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:30AM | 12:00PM | Daily |
| 1303 | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 8:15AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 3102 | 1:45PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 3103 | 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:15PM | 12:45PM | Daily |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 1:00PM | 1:30PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily |
| 1202 | 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00AM | 9:15AM | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00AM | 10:15AM | Daily |
| 1205 | 11:00AM | 11:15AM | Daily |
| 1206 | 12:00PM | 12:15PM | Daily |
| 1207 | 1:00PM | 1:15PM | Daily |
| 1208 | 2:00PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 1209 | 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily |
| 1210 | 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily |
| 1211 | 5:00PM | 5:15PM | Daily |
| 1212 | 6:00PM | 6:15PM | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 7:30AM | 7:45AM | Daily |
| 2103 | 8:30AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 2104 | 9:30AM | 9:45AM | Daily |
| 2105 | 10:30AM | 10:45AM | Daily |
| 2106 | 11:30AM | 11:45AM | Daily |
| 2107 | 12:30PM | 12:45PM | Daily |
| 2108 | 1:30PM | 1:45PM | Daily |
| 2109 | 2:30PM | 2:45PM | Daily |
| 2110 | 3:30PM | 3:45PM | Daily |
| 2111 | 4:30PM | 4:45PM | Daily |
| 2112 | 5:30PM | 5:45PM | Daily |
| 2113 | 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |

# Business

# EU seals Brexit deal as May faces a hard sell at home

**BRUSSELS** (AP)—After months of hesitation, stop-and-start negotiations and resignations, Britain and the European Union on Sunday finally sealed an agreement governing the U.K.'s departure from the bloc next year.

So much for the easy part.

British Prime Minister Theresa May must now sell the deal to her divided Parliament—a huge task considering the intense opposition from pro-Brexit and pro-EU lawmakers alike—to ensure Britain can leave with a minimum of upheaval on March 29.

It's a hard sell. The agreement leaves Britain outside the EU with no say but still subject to its rules and the obligations of membership at least until the end of 2020, possibly longer. Britons voted to leave in June 2016, largely over concerns about immigration and losing sovereignty to Brussels.

EU leaders were quick to warn that no better offer is available.

"I am totally convinced this is the only deal possible," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said. "Those who think that by rejecting the deal that they would have a better deal will be disappointed the first seconds after the rejection."

For once, May was in complete agreement.

"This is the deal that is on the table," she said. "It is the best possible deal. It is the only deal."

Acknowledging the vast political and economic consequences of Brexit, May promised lawmakers their say before Christmas and said that it "will be one of the most significant votes that Parliament has held for many years."

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, center, kisses European Union chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, right, as European Council President Donald Tusk looks on after a media conference at the conclusion of an EU summit in Brussels, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2018. AP

She argued that Parliament has a duty "to deliver Brexit" as voters have demanded.

"The British people don't want to spend any more time arguing about Brexit," she said. "They want a good deal done that fulfils the vote and allows us to come together again as a country."

Not all agree. Main opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn called the deal "the result of a miserable failure of negotiation that leaves us with the worst of all worlds," and said his party would oppose it. Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, whose Scottish National Party is the third-largest in Parliament, said lawmakers "should reject it and back a better alternative."

Pro-Brexit former Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith said May should insist on new terms because the deal "has ceded too much control" to Brussels.

On the EU side, the last big obstacle to a deal with Britain was overcome Saturday when Spain lifted its objections over the disputed British territory of Gibraltar.

So it took EU leaders only a matter of minutes at Sunday's summit in Brussels to endorse the withdrawal agreement that settles Britain's divorce bill, protects the rights of U.K. and EU citizens hit by Brexit and keeps the Irish border open. They also backed a 26-page document laying out their aims for relations after Brexit.

Still, the event was tinged with sadness on the European side at Britain's departure, the first time a country will leave the 28-nation bloc.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said her feelings were "ambivalent, with sadness, but on the other hand, also some kind of relief that we made it to this point."

"I think we managed to make a diplomatic piece of art," she said.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the deal—the product of a year and a half of often-grueling negotiations—was regrettable but acceptable.

"I believe that nobody is winning. We are all losing because of the U.K. leaving," Rutte said. "But given that context, this is a balanced outcome with no political winners."

# Dolce&Gabbana fiasco shows importance, risks of China market

**BEIJING** (AP)—Don't mess with China and its growing cadre of powerful luxury consumers.

Dolce&Gabbana learned that lesson the hard way when it faced a boycott after Chinese expressed outrage over what were seen as culturally insensitive videos promoting a major runway show in Shanghai and subsequent posts of insulting comments in a private Instagram chat.

The company blamed hackers for the anti-Chinese insults, but the explanation felt flat to many and the damage was done. The Milan designers canceled the Shanghai runway show, meant as a tribute to China, as their guest list of Asian celebrities quickly joined the protests.

Then, as retailers pulled their merchandise from shelves and powerful e-commerce sites deleted their wares, co-founders Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana went on camera—dwarfed against the larger backdrop of an ornate red wall-covering—to apologize to the Chinese people.

"We will never forget this experience, and it will definitely never happen again," a solemn-looking Gabbana said in a video statement posted Friday on social media.

The apology video, and the sharp public backlash that demanded it, shows the importance of the Chinese market and the risks of operating in it. More broadly, it highlights the huge and still-growing influence of China, a country that cannot be ignored as it expands economically, militarily and diplomatically.

These trends are intertwined in frequent outbursts of nationalist sentiment among consumers who feel slighted by foreign brands or their governments. It's not the first time a company has apologized, and it surely won't be the last. Mercedes-Benz did so in February for featuring a quote by the Dalai Lama on its Instagram account.

For Dolce&Gabbana, it could be mark the end of its growth in China, a crucial market for global luxury brands that it has cultivated since opening its first store in 2005 and where it now has 44 boutiques.

"I think it is going to be impossible over the next couple of years for them to work in China," said Cary Cooper, a professor of organizational psychology and health at Manchester University in England. "When you break this kind of cultural codes, then you are in trouble. The brand is now damaged in China, and I think it will be damaged in China until there is lost memory about it."

That could shake Dolce&Gabbana's financial health. The privately held company does not release its individual sales figures. But Chinese consumers are responsible for a third of all luxury spending around the globe, according to a recent study by Bain consultancy. That will grow to 46 percent of forecast sales of an estimated 365 billion euros ($412 billion) by 2025, fueled by millennials and the younger Generation Z set, who will make a growing percentage of their purchases online.

"Without China, the hinterland for growth, D&G will obviously be in a weak competitive position and in danger of being eliminated," the Chinese business magazine New Fortune said in a social media post Sunday. "This is one of the major reasons why D&G finally lowered its head. They really cannot survive without the Chinese market."

## YOUR OFFICE COACH

**By MARIE G. MCINTYRE**
*Tribune News Service*

*Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

## Boss' wife aggravating a formerly happy workplace

**Q My boss' wife recently decided to join the family business. "Margaret" now works in our office four days a week doing some of the accounting. She is rude to everyone and has made absolutely no effort to get to know us.**

**Margaret is constantly looking for reasons to criticize our work. If we are not in the office to hear her complaints, she will leave nasty notes on our desks. When we try to explain our systems and procedures, Margaret refuses to listen. Then she comes up with new ways of doing things that are a complete waste of time.**

**We have all tried to be polite and professional with Margaret, but her constant interference has made our working environment very unpleasant. Our boss has always been a really nice guy, so we can't imagine that he condones this behavior. Some of us have begun looking for other jobs. Do you have any advice?**

**A** If Margaret's ongoing aggravation begins driving away employees, your really nice boss may eventually find himself with an empty office. Therefore, you would be doing him a favor to make him aware of this problem. Criticizing Margaret is not without risk, however, since his natural inclination may be to defend his wife.

Since all of you seem to share these concerns, the safest course is to meet with your boss as a group. If everyone expresses the same opinion, he will find it harder to deny the problem. But if you want him to listen, you must describe the business issue without any personal attacks.

For example: "We really appreciate the effort Margaret is making to take on some of our accounting tasks. However, she has begun changing office procedures without understanding how the process works. She also seems very unhappy with us, and we find it difficult to communicate with her. How should we handle this?"

Hopefully, your boss will pay attention and begin to rectify the situation. But if Margaret continues her witchy ways, you may want to start ramping up your job search.

**Q After being in my current job for eight years, I am more than ready to move on. However, during interviews, I'm not sure how to answer the question "Why do you want to leave your present position?" Saying "because I hate my job" obviously won't work, so what do you suggest?**

**A** Applicants must always remember that being honest does not mean disclosing all their thoughts and feelings. Almost every question can have many truthful answers. Because complaints about your current job could make you sound like a hiring risk, explain your desire for change by looking forward, not backward.

This means that instead of discussing problems with the old position, you should describe the attractions of the new one. Before every interview, thoroughly research the company and list everything that you find appealing. Then, when asked about your motivation, outline all the reasons you would like to work there.

If an interviewer continues to probe for negativity, simply state that after eight years, you are interested in new opportunities and challenges. These days, no one is expected to join a company for life.

# Nation

## Mars landing looms for NASA; anxiety building a day out

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** (AP)—With just a day to go, NASA's InSight spacecraft aimed for a bull's-eye touchdown on Mars, zooming in like an arrow with no turning back.

InSight's journey of six months and 300 million miles (482 million kilometers) comes to a precarious grand finale Monday afternoon.

The robotic geologist—designed to explore Mars' insides, surface to core—must go from 12,300 mph (19,800 kph) to zero in six minutes flat as it pierces the Martian atmosphere, pops out a parachute, fires its descent engines and, hopefully, lands on three legs.

It is NASA's first attempt to land on Mars in six years, and all those involved are understandably anxious.

NASA's top science mission official, Thomas Zurbuchen, confided Sunday that his stomach is already churning. The hardest thing is sitting on his hands and doing nothing, he said, except hoping and praying everything goes perfectly for InSight.

"Landing on Mars is one of the hardest single jobs that people have to do in planetary exploration," noted InSight's lead scientist, Bruce Banerdt. "It's such a difficult thing, it's such a dangerous thing that there's always a fairly uncomfortably large chance that something could go wrong."

Earth's success rate at Mars is 40 percent, counting every attempted flyby, orbital flight and landing by the U.S., Russia and other countries dating all the way back to 1960.

But the U.S. has pulled off seven successful Mars landings in the past four decades. With only one failed touchdown, it's an enviable record. No other country has managed to set and operate a spacecraft on the dusty red surface.

InSight could hand NASA its eighth win.

It's shooting for Elysium Planitia, a plain near the Martian equator that the InSight team hopes is as flat as a parking lot in Kansas with few, if any, rocks. This is no rock-collecting expedition. Instead, the stationary 800-pound (360-kilogram) lander will use its 6-foot (1.8-meter) robotic arm to place a mechanical mole and seismometer on the ground.

The self-hammering mole will burrow 16 feet (5 meters) down to measure the planet's internal heat, while the ultra-high-tech seismometer listens for possible marsquakes. Nothing like this has been attempted before at our smaller next-door neighbor, nearly 100 million miles (160 million kilometers) away.

No experiments have ever been moved robotically from the spacecraft to the actual Martian surface. No lander has dug deeper than several inches, and no seismometer has ever worked on Mars.

By examining the deepest, darkest interior of Mars—still preserved from its earliest days—scientists hope to create 3D images that could reveal how our solar system's rocky planets formed 4.5 billion years ago and why they turned out so different. One of the big questions is what made Earth so hospitable to life.

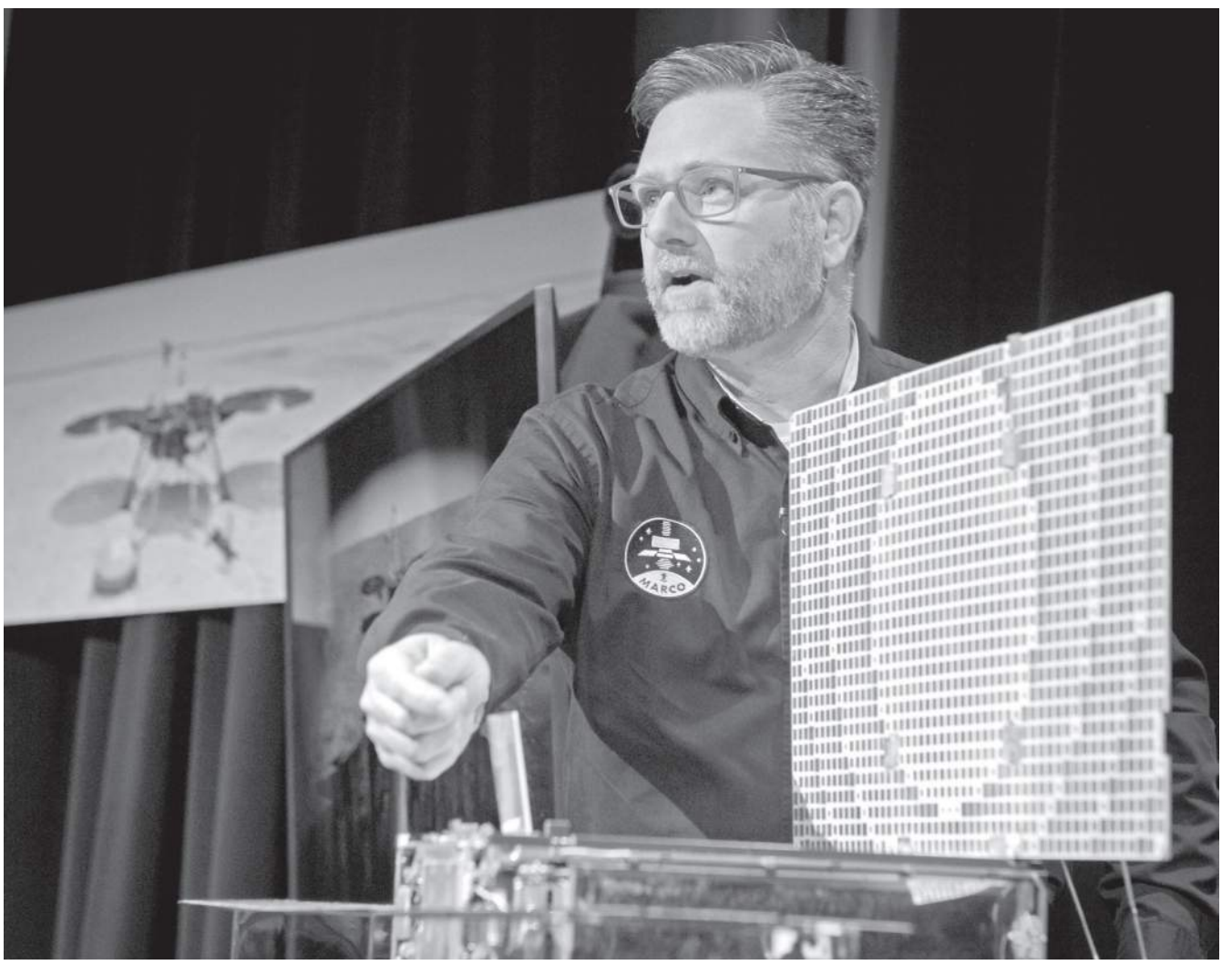
Mars once had flowing rivers and lakes; the deltas and lakebeds are now dry, and the planet cold. Venus is a furnace because of its thick, heat-trapping atmosphere. Mercury, closest to the sun, has a surface that's positively baked.

The planetary know-how gained from InSight's $1 billion, two-year operation could even spill over to rocky worlds beyond our solar system, according to Banerdt. The findings on Mars could help explain the type of conditions at these so-called exoplanets "and how they fit into the story that we're trying to figure out for how planets form," he said.

Concentrating on planetary building blocks, InSight has no life-detecting capability. That will be left for future rovers. NASA's Mars 2020 mission, for instance, will collect rocks for eventual return that could hold evidence of ancient life.

Because it's been so long since NASA's last Martian landfall—the Curiosity rover in 2012—Mars mania is gripping not only the space and science communities, but everyday folks.

Viewing parties are planned coast to coast at museums, planetariums and libraries, as well as in France, where InSight's seismometer was designed and built. The giant NASDAQ screen in New York's Times Square will start broadcasting NASA Television an hour before InSight's scheduled 3 p.m. EST touchdown; so will the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The InSight spacecraft was built near Denver by Lockheed Martin.




AP

Brian Clement, Planetary Protection lead for MarCO, NASA JPL, talks about Mars Cube One (MarCO) during an Mars InSight pre-landing briefing, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2018 at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

## Catastrophic Northern California fire is finally contained

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A massive wildfire that killed dozens of people and destroyed thousands of homes in Northern California has been fully contained after burning for more than two weeks, authorities said Sunday.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said the Camp fire had been surrounded by firefighters following several days of rain in and around the devastated town of Paradise.

The nation's deadliest wildfire in a century killed at least 85 people, and 249 are on a list of those unaccounted for. The number of missing dropped in recent days as officials confirmed that more people were alive.

Crews continued sifting through debris and ash for human remains.

"It's certainly good to be done with the containment of this fire, even though there's still a lot of work to be done moving forward," fire spokeswoman Jennifer Erickson said.

The blaze began on Nov. 8 in the parched Sierra Nevada foothills and quickly spread across 240 square miles (620 square kilometers), destroying most of Paradise in a day.

Nearly 19,000 buildings, most of them homes, are gone.

The firefight got a boost last week from the first significant winter storm to hit California. It dropped an estimated 7 inches (18 centimeters) of rain over the burn area during a three-day period without causing significant mudslides, said Hannah Chandler-Cooley of the National Weather Service.

In Southern California, more residents returned to areas evacuated in a destructive fire as crews repaired power, telephone and gas utilities.

Los Angeles County sheriff's officials said they were in the last phase of repopulating Malibu and unincorporated areas of the county. At the height of the fire, 250,000 fled their homes. The fire was fully contained Nov. 21 after burning for two weeks.

Three people died, and 1,643 buildings, most of them homes, were destroyed, officials said.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Girl shot 7 times at Indiana school performs at Colts game

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—A teenage girl who was shot seven times at a central Indiana middle school has performed with Indianapolis Colts cheerleaders. Ella Whistler danced with the cheer squad at Sunday's game against the Miami Dolphins. The Indianapolis Star reports she also sang the national anthem with the school choir. Whistler and teacher Jason Seaman were shot at Noblesville West Middle School in May by a 13-year-old boy who later admitted to the shooting. Whistler's family previously said she was shot in the face, neck and chest, and suffered collapsed lungs and several broken bones. A judge ruled earlier this month that the boy should be held at a state juvenile detention center until he is 18 or deemed rehabilitated. Ella Whistler performed during the Colts' win wearing her Noblesville West uniform.

### Deputies: Truck hits house and pins woman, 71, against couch

**TAMPA, Fla.** (AP)—Deputies in Florida say a pickup truck slammed into the front wall of a house, pinning a 71-year-old woman against a couch in her living room. Hillsborough County Sheriff's officials say it took about 30 minutes to free the woman Saturday evening. She was flown to St. Joseph's Hospital in critical condition. The driver of the pickup truck fled after the crash. Deputies are still searching for him. No additional details were immediately available.

### Bear strolls into California Highway Patrol office

**TRUCKEE, Calif.** (AP)—A bear had no trouble opening a door as it strolled into a California Highway Patrol office in a mountain town. In an online video shared by the CHP Saturday, the bear is seen through a window standing on its back legs outside the Donner Pass Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility. The animal has a peek inside and then pulls the door open. It drops to all fours and wanders past a vending machine and into the office in Truckee, north of Lake Tahoe. The bear can be seen reflected in a window as it looks around. Eventually, the bear walks out the same way it came in. Moments later, two armed officers follow the animal out the door. The CHP says its "unexpected visitor" arrived the night of Nov. 17.

# Asia

## Sri Lankan president: PM-related investigations to continue

Sri Lankan civil society activists stage a silent sit on protest in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2018. AP

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** (AP)—Sri Lanka's president on Sunday assured non-interference in ongoing investigations into abductions, killings of journalists and other crimes allegedly committed by those connected to the new prime minister and his Cabinet.

President Maithripala Sirisena said that the courts and police would continue to function independently despite Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa joining his government.

He said "no one can interfere" with the police and courts.

Sirisena's remarks to foreign media correspondents came amid growing fears that investigations into alleged killings and malpractices mostly blamed on the immediate family members of Rajapaksa and his Cabinet ministers would be stalled with Rajapaksa's appointment as prime minister last month.

"With a political change of this nature, there could be different thoughts, but my policy is that they should not change," Sirisena said when asked about the fate of the investigations with Rajapaksa, a former strongman president, now in control of the government.

Rajapaksa is considered a hero by some in the ethnic Sinhalese majority for ending Sri Lanka's long civil war by crushing ethnic Tamil Tiger rebels. However, his time in power was marred by allegations of wartime atrocities, corruption and nepotism.

Sri Lanka has been in a political crisis since Oct. 26, when Sirisena abruptly fired Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and appointed Rajapaksa. Both claim to be the legitimate officeholder, with Wickremesinghe saying he has majority support in Parliament and his firing was invalid.

On Friday, lawmakers opposed to Rajapaksa won control of a key committee that sets Parliament's agenda, dealing a severe blow to his leadership.

Previously, Parliament had passed two confidence motions against Rajapaksa. As a result, the parliamentary speaker, Karu Jayasuriya, said the prime minister and the government do not exist.

The votes on the no-confidence motions were taken by voice votes as Parliament turned violent, with rival lawmakers exchanging blows. Meanwhile, lawmakers supporting Rajapaksa threw books, chairs and chili powder mixed with water to try to block the proceedings.

Rajapaksa rejected the results of the vote, saying important issues should not be decided by voice. He also insisted the speaker had no authority to remove him and said he is continuing to work as prime minister.

Tensions had been building between Sirisena and Wickremesinghe for some time, as the president did not approve of economic reforms introduced by the prime minister. Sirisena has also accused Wickremesinghe and another Cabinet member of plotting to assassinate him, a charge Wickremesinghe has repeatedly denied.

## Taiwanese reject legalizing same-sex unions in referendum

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—Voters in Taiwan passed a referendum asking that marriage be restricted to one man and one woman, a setback to LGBT couples hoping their island will be the first place in Asia to let same-sex couples share child custody and insurance benefits.

The vote on Saturday, organized by Christian groups that make up about 5 percent of Taiwan's population and advocates of the traditional Chinese family structure, goes against a May 2017 Constitutional Court ruling. Justices told legislators then to make same-sex marriage legal within two years, a first for Asia, where religion and conservative governments normally keep the bans in place.

Although the ballot initiative is advisory only, it is expected to frustrate lawmakers mindful of public opinion as they face the court deadline next year. Many legislators will stand for re-election in 2020.

"The legislature has lots of choices on how to make this court order take effect," said referendum proponent Chen Ke, a Catholic pastor in Taiwan and an opponent of same-sex marriage.

Ruling party lawmakers backed by President Tsai Ing-wen had proposed legalizing same-sex marriage in late 2016, but put their ideas aside to await the court hearing.

Opposition to same-sex marriage crested after the court ruling. Opponents have held rallies and mobilized votes online.

Courts will still consider local marriage licensing offices in violation of the law by May 2019 if they refuse same-sex couples, a Ministry of Justice spokesperson said last week.

"The referendum is a general survey—it doesn't have very strong legal implications," said Shiau Hong-chi, professor of gender studies and communications management at Shih-Hsin University in Taiwan. "One way or another it has to go back to the court."

Voters approved a separate measure Saturday calling for a "different process" to protect same-sex unions. It's viewed as an alternative to using the civil code. A third initiative, also approved, asked that schools avoid teaching LGBT "education."

Amnesty International told the government it needs to "deliver equality and dignity."

"This result is a bitter blow and a step backwards for human rights in Taiwan," Amnesty's Taiwan-based Acting Director Annie Huang said. "However, despite this setback, we remain confident that love and equality will ultimately prevail."

Taiwanese also elected candidates from the China-friendly opposition Nationalist Party to a majority of mayoral and county magistrate posts, reversing the party's losses in 2014.

## Hard-line Hindus pressure Modi over temple at disputed site

**LUCKNOW, India** (AP)—Tens of thousands of hard-line Hindus rallied Sunday to demand a Hindu temple be built on a site in northern India where hard-liners in 1992 had attacked and demolished a 16th century mosque, sparking deadly Hindu-Muslim violence.

The Hindu hard-liners are building pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to move quickly on the issue. Modi had promised to build the temple in 2014 elections that brought him to power. The next national elections are due before May.

Thousands of police and paramilitary forces were deployed in and around Ayodhya, 550 kilometers (350 miles) east of New Delhi, to prevent any attacks on Muslims, who comprise 6 percent of the town's more than 55,500 people.

The rally brought Hindu holy men and activists to the town where the Hindu god Ram was believed to have been born.

The demonstrators chanted slogans demanding the building of the temple and waved a banner that said, "No more requests, now it will be battle."

"Hindus have waited for a long time. They are losing patience," Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, who heads the committee on the disputed land, told the crowd. "The time has come for the government to take a call."

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's ally in the federal government, the Shiv Sena party, asked Modi's government to bring legislation to build the temple, as India's top court is taking time to settle a land title dispute between Hindus and Muslims.

Shiv Sena's chief, Uddav Thackeray, said if construction of the temple does not start, Modi's government would not return to power. "The prime minister has to choose between the temple and the government," he told reporters.

Hindu fundamentalists with pickaxes and crowbars razed the 16th century Babri Mosque to the ground in December 1992.

Hindu groups say the mosque was built after a temple dedicated to Ram was destroyed by Muslim invaders.

The destruction of the mosque sparked riots across India that left at least 2,000 people dead. Thousands more died in later violence caused by disputes over the site.

The issue was also taken to court. A lower court in 2010 ruled that the disputed land should be divided into three parts—two for the Hindus and one for the Muslims. The decision was challenged in the Supreme Court, but there has not been any decision yet.

# World

Migrants run from tear gas launched by U.S. agents, amid photojournalists covering the Mexico-U.S. border, after a group of migrants got past Mexican police at the Chaparral crossing in Tijuana, Mexico, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2018. AP

## US agents fire tear gas as some migrants try to breach fence

**TIJUANA, Mexico** (AP)—U.S. border agents fired tear gas on hundreds of migrants protesting near the border with Mexico on Sunday after some of them attempted to get through the fencing and wire separating the two countries, and American authorities shut down border crossings from the city where thousands are waiting to apply for asylum.

The situation devolved after the group began a peaceful march to appeal for the U.S. to speed processing of asylum claims for Central American migrants marooned in Tijuana.

Mexican police had kept them from walking over a bridge leading to the Mexican port of entry, but the migrants pushed past officers to walk across the Tijuana River below the bridge. More police carrying plastic riot shields were on the other side, but migrants walked along the river to an area where only an earthen levee and concertina wire separated them from U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Some saw an opportunity to breach the crossing.

An Associated Press reporter saw U.S. agents shoot several rounds of tear gas after some migrants attempted to penetrate several points along the border. Mexico's Milenio TV showed images of migrants climbing over fences and peeling back metal sheeting to enter.

Honduran Ana Zuniga, 23, also said she saw migrants opening a small hole in concertina wire at a gap on the Mexican side of a levee, at which point U.S. agents fired tear gas at them.

Children screamed and coughed. Fumes were carried by the wind toward people who were hundreds of feet away.

"We ran, but when you run the gas asphyxiates you more," Zuniga told the AP while cradling her 3-year-old daughter Valery in her arms.

Mexico's Interior Ministry said around 500 migrants tried to "violently" enter the U.S.

The ministry said in a statement it would immediately deport those people and would reinforce security.

As the chaos unfolded, shoppers just yards away on the U.S. side streamed in and out of an outlet mall.

Throughout the day, U.S. Customs and Border Protection helicopters flew overhead, while U.S. agents held vigil on foot beyond the wire fence in California. The Border Patrol office in San Diego said via Twitter that pedestrian crossings were suspended at the San Ysidro port of entry at both the East and West facilities. All northbound and southbound traffic was halted.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said in a statement that U.S. authorities will continue to have a "robust" presence along the Southwest border and that they will prosecute anyone who damages federal property or violates U.S. sovereignty.

"DHS will not tolerate this type of lawlessness and will not hesitate to shut down ports of entry for security and public safety reasons," she said.

More than 5,000 migrants have been camped in and around a sports complex in Tijuana after making their way through Mexico in recent weeks via caravan. Many hope to apply for asylum in the U.S., but agents at the San Ysidro entry point are processing fewer than 100 asylum petitions a day.

Irineo Mujica, who has accompanied the migrants for weeks as part of the aid group Pueblo Sin Fronteras, said the aim of Sunday's march toward the U.S. border was to make the migrants' plight more visible to the governments of Mexico and the U.S.

"We can't have all these people here," Mujica told The Associated Press.

## Russia fires on Ukrainian vessels in Black Sea; 2 wounded

**MOSCOW** (AP)—Russia's coast guard opened fire on and seized three of Ukraine's vessels Sunday, wounding two crew members, after a tense standoff in the Black Sea near the Crimean Peninsula, the Ukrainian navy said.

Russia blamed Ukraine for provoking the incident, which sharply escalated tensions that have been growing between the two countries since Moscow annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, and it has worked steadily to bolster its zone of control around the peninsula.

Earlier in the day, Russia and Ukraine traded accusations over a separate incident involving the same vessels, prompting Moscow to block passage through the narrow Kerch Strait, which separates the peninsula from the Russian mainland.

The Ukrainian navy said two of its gunboats were struck and Russian crews boarded and seized them and an accompanying tugboat.

Russia's Federal Security Service, known as the FSB and which oversees the coast guard, said there was "irrefutable evidence that Kiev prepared and orchestrated provocations ... in the Black Sea. These materials will soon be made public."

The FSB confirmed early Monday that it fired on the vessels to force them to stop, and then seized them.

An emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council was called for Monday morning over the escalating situation, according to U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley. The European Union and NATO called for restraint from both sides and for Moscow to restore access to the strait, which Ukraine uses to move ships to and from ports on either side of the peninsula.

Ukrainian authorities said they had given advance notice to the Russians that the vessels would be moving through the strait, which connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Azov.

Russia said the three Ukrainian vessels made an unauthorized passage through Russian territorial waters, while Ukraine alleged that one of its boats was rammed by a Russian coast guard vessel.

The tugboat, which was rammed, was traveling with the two Ukrainian gunboats from Odessa on the Black Sea to Mariupol, an eastern Ukraine port, via the Kerch Strait.

"Russian coast guard vessels ... carried out openly aggressive actions against Ukrainian navy ships," the Ukrainian statement said, with the tugboat suffering damage to its engine, hull, side railing and a lifeboat.

The Kerch Strait is the only passage into the Sea of Azov. The strait is spanned by the recently completed Kerch Bridge, connecting Crimea to Russia. Transit under the bridge has been blocked by a tanker ship, and dozens of cargo ships awaiting passage are stuck.

Russia has not given any indication of how long it will block the strait, but a long-term closure to would amount to an economic blockade of Ukrainian cities on the Azov coast. Russia's Black Sea Fleet greatly outmatches the Ukrainian navy.

## Over 500 hurt in magnitude 6.3 earthquake in western Iran

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—A magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck western Iran near its border with Iraq on Sunday night, injuring more than 500 people and sending fearful residents running into the streets, authorities said.

The Sunday temblor hit near Sarpol-e Zahab in Iran's Kermanshah province, which was the epicenter of an earthquake last year that killed more than 600 people and where some still remain homeless.

Dr. Mahmoud Reza Moradi, the head of Kermanshah's university of medical science, told Iranian state television that 513 people were hurt. Most of the injuries appeared to be minor; the semi-official ISNA news agency reported that only 33 people needed to be hospitalized.

Authorities said dozens of rescue teams were immediately deployed after the quake stopped and the country's army and its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard were responding.

Officials reported damage at buildings both in town and in rural Kermanshah, as well as to some roadways. The temblor also downed power lines and caused power outages into the night as temperatures hovered around 8 degrees Celsius (46 degrees Fahrenheit).

The quake struck just after 8 p.m. in Iran, meaning most were still awake at the time and able to quickly flee.

The 6.3 earthquake had a depth of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Iran state TV gave the depth as 5 kilometers (3.1 miles). Such shallow earthquakes have broader damage.

The earthquake was felt as far away as the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, about 175 kilometers (110 miles) southwest.

Iran is located on major seismic faults and experiences an earthquake per day on average. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake flattened the historic city of Bam in southern Iran, killing 26,000 people.

Last year's earthquake near Sarpol-e Zahab, a predominantly Kurdish town, had a magnitude of 7.3 and injured more than 9,000 people. The region, nestled in the Zagros Mountains, largely rebuilt in recent decades after Iran and Iraq's ruinous 1980s war, saw many buildings collapse or sustain major damage in the 2017 quake.

# Focus

AP

In this Oct. 9, 2018 photo, Zhou Xiaoqin places an embryo in its storage tube into a liquid nitrogen bath after its removal from cryostorage at a laboratory in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province. Chinese scientist He Jiankui claims he helped make world's first genetically edited babies: twin girls whose DNA he said he altered. He revealed it Monday, Nov. 26, in Hong Kong to one of the organizers of an international conference on gene editing.

## AP EXCLUSIVE:

# First gene-edited babies claimed in China

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

**HONG KONG (**AP)—A Chinese researcher claims that he helped make the world's first genetically edited babies—twin girls born this month whose DNA he said he altered with a powerful new tool capable of rewriting the very blueprint of life.

If true, it would be a profound leap of science and ethics.

A U.S. scientist said he took part in the work in China, but this kind of gene editing is banned in the United States because the DNA changes can pass to future generations and it risks harming other genes.

Many mainstream scientists think it's too unsafe to try, and some denounced the Chinese report as human experimentation.

The researcher, He Jiankui of Shenzhen, said he altered embryos for seven couples during fertility treatments, with one pregnancy resulting thus far. He said his goal was not to cure or prevent an inherited disease, but to try to bestow a trait that few people naturally have—an ability to resist possible future infection with HIV, the AIDS virus.

He said the parents involved declined to be identified or interviewed, and he would not say where they live or where the work was done.

There is no independent confirmation of He's claim, and it has not been published in a journal, where it would be vetted by other experts. He revealed it Monday in Hong Kong to one of the organizers of an international conference on gene editing that is set to begin Tuesday, and earlier in exclusive interviews with The Associated Press.

"I feel a strong responsibility that it's not just to make a first, but also make it an example," He told the AP. "Society will decide what to do next" in terms of allowing or forbidding such science.

Some scientists were astounded to hear of the claim and strongly condemned it.

It's "unconscionable ... an experiment on human beings that is not morally or ethically defensible," said Dr. Kiran Musunuru, a University of Pennsylvania gene editing expert and editor of a genetics journal.

"This is far too premature," said Dr. Eric Topol, who heads the Scripps Research Translational Institute in California. "We're dealing with the operating instructions of a human being. It's a big deal."

However, one famed geneticist, Harvard University's George Church, defended attempting gene editing for HIV, which he called "a major and growing public health threat."

"I think this is justifiable," Church said of that goal.

In recent years scientists have discovered a relatively easy way to edit genes, the strands of DNA that govern the body. The tool, called CRISPR-cas9, makes it possible to operate on DNA to supply a needed gene or disable one that's causing problems.

It's only recently been tried in adults to treat deadly diseases, and the changes are confined to that person. Editing sperm, eggs or embryos is different—the changes can be inherited. In the U.S., it's not allowed except for lab research. China outlaws human cloning but not specifically gene editing.

He Jiankui (HEH JEE'-an-qway), who goes by "JK," studied at Rice and Stanford universities in the U.S. before returning to his homeland to open a lab at Southern University of Science and Technology of China in Shenzhen, where he also has two genetics companies.

The U.S. scientist who worked with him on this project after He returned to China was physics and bioengineering professor Michael Deem, who was his adviser at Rice in Houston. Deem also holds what he called "a small stake" in—and is on the scientific advisory boards of—He's two companies.

The Chinese researcher said he practiced editing mice, monkey and human embryos in the lab for several years and has applied for patents on his methods.

He said he chose embryo gene editing for HIV because these infections are a big problem in China. He sought to disable a gene called CCR5 that forms a protein doorway that allows HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, to enter a cell.

All of the men in the project had HIV and all of the women did not, but the gene editing was not aimed at preventing the small risk of transmission, He said. The fathers had their infections deeply suppressed by standard HIV medicines and there are simple ways to keep them from infecting offspring that do not involve altering genes.

Instead, the appeal was to offer couples affected by HIV a chance to have a child that might be protected from a similar fate.

He recruited couples through a Beijing-based AIDS advocacy group called Baihualin. Its leader, known by the pseudonym "Bai Hua," told the AP that it's not uncommon for people with HIV to lose jobs or have trouble getting medical care if their infections are revealed.

Here is how He described the work:

The gene editing occurred during IVF, or lab dish fertilization. First, sperm was "washed" to separate it from semen, the fluid where HIV can lurk. A single sperm was placed into a single egg to create an embryo. Then the gene editing tool was added.

When the embryos were 3 to 5 days old, a few cells were removed and checked for editing. Couples could choose whether to use edited or unedited embryos for pregnancy attempts. In all, 16 of 22 embryos were edited, and 11 embryos were used in six implant attempts before the twin pregnancy was achieved, He said.

Tests suggest that one twin had both copies of the intended gene altered and the other twin had just one altered, with no evidence of harm to other genes, He said. People with one copy of the gene can still get HIV, although some very limited research suggests their health might decline more slowly once they do.

Several scientists reviewed materials that He provided to the AP and said tests so far are insufficient to say the editing worked or to rule out harm.

They also noted evidence that the editing was incomplete and that at least one twin appears to be a patchwork of cells with various changes.

"It's almost like not editing at all" if only some of certain cells were altered, because HIV infection can still occur, Church said.

Church and Musunuru questioned the decision to allow one of the embryos to be used in a pregnancy attempt, because the Chinese researchers said they knew in advance that both copies of the intended gene had not been altered.

"In that child, there really was almost nothing to be gained in terms of protection against HIV and yet you're exposing that child to all the unknown safety risks," Musunuru said.

The use of that embryo suggests that the researchers' "main emphasis was on testing editing rather than avoiding this disease," Church said.

Even if editing worked perfectly, people without normal CCR5 genes face higher risks of getting certain other viruses, such as West Nile, and of dying from the flu. Since there are many ways to prevent HIV infection and it's very treatable if it occurs, those other medical risks are a concern, Musunuru said.

There also are questions about the way He said he proceeded. He gave official notice of his work long after he said he started it—on Nov. 8, on a Chinese registry of clinical trials.

It's unclear whether participants fully understood the purpose and potential risks and benefits. For example, consent forms called the project an "AIDS vaccine development" program.

The Rice scientist, Deem, said he was present in China when potential participants gave their consent and that he "absolutely" thinks they were able to understand the risks.

Deem said he worked with He on vaccine research at Rice and considers the gene editing similar to a vaccine.

"That might be a layman's way of describing it," he said.

Both men are physics experts with no experience running human clinical trials.

# Life & Style

## ‘Wreck-It Ralph,’ ‘Creed’ fuel record holiday box office

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Movie sequels are having their own Thanksgiving feast at the box office and fueling record industry-wide grosses for the long weekend.

“Ralph Breaks the Internet” and “Creed II” took the top two spots on the North American charts, beat the openings for the original films and helped the five-day Thanksgiving box office totals cross the $300 million mark for the first time ever.

Studios on Sunday said Disney’s “Wreck-It Ralph” sequel earned an estimated $55.7 million over the three-day weekend and $84.5 million since its Wednesday opening to take first place and become one of the biggest Thanksgiving openings of all time.

Its five-day Thanksgiving grosses are the third highest of all time, behind “Frozen” and “Hunger Games: Catching Fire.”

The film sees the return of the vocal talents of John C. Reilly and Sarah Silverman, and it scored with audiences and critics.

“We’re very thankful for this weekend,” said Cathleen Taff, who oversees Disney’s theatrical distribution. “It was a fantastic start and a great way to kick off the holiday season.”

The Rocky spinoff “Creed II,” starring Michael B. Jordan and Sylvester Stallone, placed second with $35.3 million from the weekend and $55.8 million since Wednesday, far surpassing the first film’s Thanksgiving debut in 2015. The sequel directed by Steven Caple Jr. has Jordan’s Adonis Creed fighting the son of Ivan Drago.

This image released by Disney shows characters, from left, Ralph, voiced by John C. Reilly, Yess, voiced by Taraji P. Henson and Vanellope von Schweetz, voiced by Sarah Silverman in a scene from “Ralph Breaks the Internet.” AP

“This is a timeless franchise for us at MGM, and it’s a thrill to see both its legacy and new generation of audiences continue to respond to Rocky Balboa and Adonis Creed in this time when we need uplifting stories,” Jonathan Glickman, president of MGM’s Motion Picture Group, said in a statement.

Third place went to Illumination Entertainment’s “Dr. Seuss’ The Grinch,” which earned $30.2 million in its second weekend, and just barely beat out the “Fantastic Beasts” sequel, “Crimes of Grindelwald” ($29.7 million) which is also in weekend two.

There was little left at the table for the latest version of “Robin Hood,” starring Taron Egerton. The poorly reviewed pic from Lionsgate’s Summit Entertainment grossed only $9.1 million over the weekend and $14.2 million in its first five days in theaters against a reported production budget of nearly $100 million.

Universal’s crowd-pleaser “Green Book,” starring Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen, expanded to 1,063 locations after a limited start and took ninth place with $5.4 million.

1. **“Ralph Breaks the Internet,”** $55.7 million ($41.5 million international).
2. **“Creed II,”** $35.3 million.
3. **“Dr. Seuss’ The Grinch,”** $30.2 million ($7.6 million international).
4. **“Fantastic Beasts: Crimes of Grindelwald,”** $29.7 million ($83.7 million international).
5. **“Bohemian Rhapsody,”** $13.9 million ($38 million international).
6. **“Instant Family,”** $12.5 million.
7. **“Robin Hood,”** $9.1 million ($8.7 million international).
8. **“Widows,”** $8 million.
9. **“Green Book,”** $5.4 million.
10. **“A Star Is Born,”** $3 million ($3.5 million international).

Peter Farrelly directed the film based on a true story of a road trip through the Jim Crow-era South. With awards buzz, good reviews and an A+ CinemaScore for the movie, Universal’s distribution chief Jim Orr said he expects it to have a long life at the domestic box office.

Another awards season movie, Fox Searchlight’s acclaimed period piece “The Favourite,” with Emma Stone, Rachel Weisz and Oliva Colman, opened in four locations to $420,000.

Overall, it was a remarkable Thanksgiving frame at the box office for the industry. It’s the first time ever that the total domestic box office has surpassed $300 million over the five days counted around the Thanksgiving holiday. Box office tracker Comscore is projecting a $314 million total.

“This is a perfectly fitting Thanksgiving for a year that’s had its share of records being broken,” said Comsore’s senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

## Eric Bana brings ‘Dirty John’ to TV with Connie Britton

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Eric Bana is bringing the popular true crime podcast “Dirty John” to TV with a weekly series on Bravo.

Bana plays John Meehan and Connie Britton plays Debra Newell, a couple in California who met online and fell in love. John claimed to be a doctor, just back from volunteering his services for Doctors Without Borders in Iraq.

Bana

Newell, who had already been married multiple times and had grown children, thought John was the man she had always been looking for. Her kids, however, immediately didn’t trust him. As they make their concerns known, John succeeded in driving a wedge through Debra’s family.

A Los Angeles Times reporter, Christopher Goffard, covered the story and turned it into a wildly successful, addictive podcast. Bana didn’t tune in until he heard of the TV project.

“I downloaded and listened to all six very quickly and loved it,” he said. “There were parts that I couldn’t quite believe really happened.”

While Britton spoke to the real Newell to play the part, Bana didn’t have the opportunity to contact Meehan. He said he was fine with that and didn’t go looking for ways to exactly replicate the man. He said he was most concerned with portraying how Debra could fall for him, and why it would be so hard for her to walk away.

“We need to see what Debra saw, we need to get a sense that the attraction and the relationship was real and genuine and wasn’t a caricature so that was the tricky part, I think,” he said.

Bana also thinks people will be drawn to the conflict between Debra and her family, because of Meehan.

“It plays into relationship dynamics within families, what advice we take and listen to and clashes we can have.”

He said manipulators like Meehan are very calculated.

“These guys know what they’re doing. This is not like a normal relationship. He’s picking on his prey deliberately and targeting a particular type of personality. It’s never a fair match and it’s simple to judge for a lot of people, but I think the more research you do, the more you understand how someone stays with a person like that.”

## Adult children fail to warm to stepdad of eight years

**DEAR ABBY**: I was married for 19 years and have three adult daughters from that marriage. I remarried eight years ago to a woman who has two adult children. My relationship with them is not good, in spite of my efforts to engage them in basic conversation. She told me recently that neither one of them likes me. In fact, she has suggested I just say hello and goodbye and leave it at that.

I’m not sure what I am supposed to do with this information. I don’t think at this point in my life (age 66) I’m interested in changing myself to coax anybody to like me. I’m irritated with my wife for telling me her kids don’t like me. If any of my daughters said, “I don’t like your wife,” I wouldn’t mention it to her because I know she wouldn’t want to go with me to visit them. My desire to visit either of her kids is now nonexistent. Your thoughts?

UNLIKED IN OHIO

**DEAR UNLIKED: I think it is interesting that your wife didn’t tell you WHY her children don’t like you, or if she did, that you didn’t elaborate. Under the circumstances, your reaction is understandable, so stay home and enjoy yourself while your wife visits them. If you do, I suspect you will all be happier.**

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: My wife and I just celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary and went away for a long weekend. Late in the second day, my wife said, “Don’t get mad at me, but a guy who works for me asked me to bring him a souvenir.” Then she told me she didn’t want to get me involved.

My question is, why wouldn’t she mention it at the start of the trip and instead bring it up two days into our getaway? It makes me feel like she was thinking of him on our anniversary. Am I reading too much into this, or should I be concerned? By the way, I wouldn’t think of another woman—co-worker or not—during a getaway with my wife.

UNSURE IN THE WEST

**DEAR UNSURE: Please stop worrying. If you and your bride have had a happy marriage for 30 years, I’m guessing that on your special day, she was thinking about how lucky the two of you are to have had three blessed decades together. If she had anything to hide, she wouldn’t have mentioned the souvenir. I’m guessing she brought it up because she didn’t want to forget she had agreed to bring something and come home empty-handed.**

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: My boyfriend of 12 years worries me. He’s a man who wants life to be like he wants it to be, not like it is. He thinks everyone owes him a discount on whatever he’s buying. He can talk for what seems like a month, and while he never really lies, he never exactly tells the truth. This puts a huge strain on our relationship.

I love him, but I don’t trust him. I have caught him in many discrepancies. When confronted, he sometimes will own up to them. What should I do?

NERVOUS IN NORTH CAROLINA

**DEAR NERVOUS: I think in your heart you already know what you should do. If you can’t trust someone, there is no basis for a meaningful relationship. I wish you had written me about this 11 1/2 years ago, when ending the romance would have been less painful.**

### DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

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# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

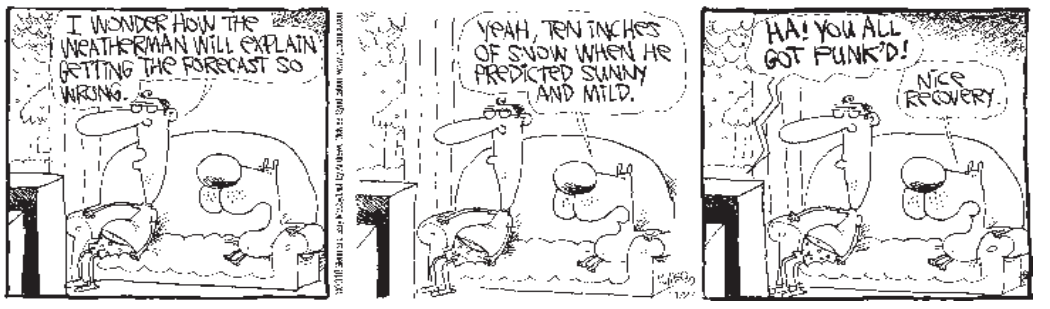
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

MMM. SMELL THAT NEW LAPTOP SMELL.
GROSS.
SNIFF
I SAW SOMETHING ABOUT IT. IT HAS TOUCH ID AND A NEW PROCESSOR. A NEW SECURITY CHIP AND, LIKE, TWICE AS MANY PIXELS.
SHINY.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I WONDER HOW THE WEATHERMAN WILL EXPLAIN GETTING THE FORECAST SO WRONG.
YEAH, TEN INCHES OF SNOW WHEN HE PREDICTED SUNNY AND MILD.
HA! YOU ALL GOT PUNK'D!
NICE RECOVERY.

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Helps
5 Fan's cry
8 Spiked club
12 Take a gander
13 Packed away
14 Port of Algeria
15 Jewelry container, often
17 Expansive
18 Enzyme suffix
19 Trendy
20 Feelings, informally
21 Frenzied
22 Service charge
23 Villain's look
26 Relaxing tub session
30 Slanted type (Abbr.)
31 Sock part
32 Celestial bear
33 Tart pie filling
35 Pursuing
36 Shaft of light
37 U.K. fliers
38 Audition CDs
41 Supporting
42 Rap sheet abbr.
45 Sandwich treat
46 Hodgepodge
48 Hockey venue
49 "— was saying ..."
50 Competent
51 &&&&
52 That girl
53 Salon jobs

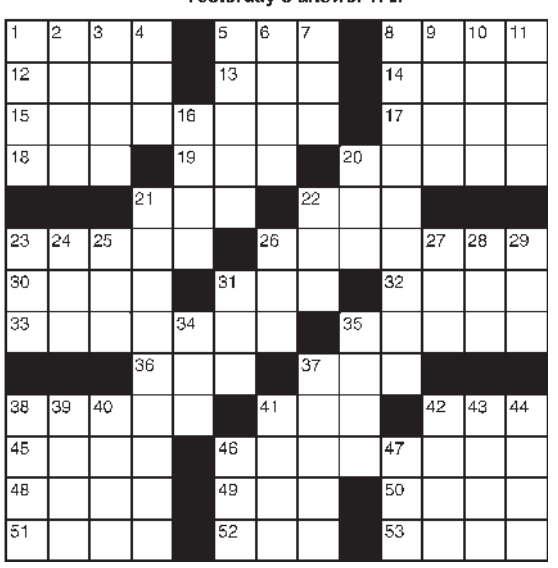
**DOWN**

1 — mater
2 Debtors' notes
3 Prescribed amount
4 Enjoy Aspen
5 Fanatical
6 At the summit of
7 Whammy
8 Film fan
9 Saudi, e.g.
10 Job for Holmes
11 Tolkien creatures
16 Scorch
20 Animal doc
21 "The Producers" director
22 Nemesis
23 Knightly address
24 Ultimate degree
25 Vichy water
26 Mischief
27 Illustrations
28 Mao — -tung
29 Guffaw syllable
31 Attempt
34 Small batteries
35 Swiss river
37 — Hart ("Chicago" role)
38 TV explorer
39 Ms. Brockovich
40 Repair
41 Go angling
42 "Dear —"
43 Hardy cabbage
44 Mellows
46 Pas' mates
47 June honoree

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | A | P | | | G | A | L | | F | E | E | L |
| I | N | R | E | | A | M | I | | U | N | G | E |
| M | A | A | M | | G | E | L | | L | E | O | N |
| E | G | Y | P | T | | S | A | I | L | | | |
| | | | T | O | P | | C | R | C | N | J | T |
| E | G | G | Y | O | I | K | | A | F | O | R | F |
| V | E | I | N | | Y | I | N | | H | I | N | T |
| I | N | F | E | R | | R | E | M | C | R | S | E |
| L | E | T | S | O | N | | O | A | T | | | |
| | | | I | O | U | R | | W | A | N | E | S |
| J | E | T | E | | M | I | X | | I | O | T | A |
| F | E | A | R | | B | _ | Y | | R | U | T | S |
| K | E | G | S | | S | E | Z | | | N | A | H |

**Yesterday's answer** 11-27



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Alison Pill, 33; Jaleel White, 42; Fisher Stevens, 55; Kathryn Bigelow, 67.

**Happy Birthday:** You can light up the world with your charisma and flair this year, but don't go overboard or your critics will be quick to set you straight. Change is in the works, and having a plan in place will ensure you don't overdo it. Too much of anything will lead to delays. A moderate approach will encourage help and support. Your numbers are 7, 19, 23, 28, 33, 41, 43.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Take care of personal affairs. Tidy up loose ends, and make changes that will improve your health. A commitment will lead to a new beginning. Personal change is encouraged, and romance will bring you closer to someone you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Stick to your game plan. Don't let a sensitive issue stop you from reaching your goal. Being productive will help ease stress and give you a chance to distance yourself from a matter that has left you feeling uncertain. ✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Talks will lead to changes that will add to your comfort and convenience. A chance to collaborate with someone creative will encourage you to let your imagination wander; favorable results will transpire. Trust in your ability to get things done. ✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Remain focused on what needs to be finished. Refuse to let anyone confuse you with last-minute changes. Gather information online or through conference calls. Don't trust secondhand information. Be resourceful and avoid being misled by someone who tends to exaggerate. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Initiate change if that's what you want. Don't wait for someone else to step in and take over. Set your goals, budget and time frame; don't venture off-track. A celebration late in the day will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Question everyone and everything to be sure you are getting legitimate information. Problems at home should be looked at carefully, and consideration should be made based on what's transpired and the facts. Honesty may be an issue. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Speak up if you don't agree with someone or if you are being bullied or taken for granted. A change shouldn't be made quickly. Slow down and double-check all the facts rather than acting on an emotional impulse. ✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Pour your energy into fixing up your residence. Don't be fooled by someone looking for a handout or exaggerating about how well he or she is doing. Trust your instincts, and don't let your emotions lead you astray. ✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take care of your cash, possessions and your physical well-being. Don't let anyone bully you into something you don't want to do. Question suspicious offers or anyone who is too complimentary. Joint ventures should be monitored carefully. ✪✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A steady pace forward is your best bet. Don't let the changes others make get in your way or stop you from moving forward with or without help or support. Trust in your ability to get things done. ✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Share your thoughts and feelings to find out where you stand. If something doesn't sound right, ask questions until you feel satisfied with what you are being told. Honesty will lead to positive and well-thought-out change. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Nothing will be clear-cut, and communication will lead to uncertainty. If you aren't sure about someone or something, sit tight and wait until you have a better view of what's happening. Problems while traveling or dealing with others can be expected. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are benevolent, open-minded and energetic. You are competitive and talkative.

*To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.*

# SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | 5 | 4 | | 9 | | 2 | |
| | 2 | | | | | 1 | | |
| | | | 5 | | | | 4 | |
| | | | | | 6 | | 5 | 4 |
| | 5 | | 8 | | 3 | | 6 | |
| 3 | 4 | | 1 | | | | | |
| | 7 | | | | 2 | | | |
| | | 9 | | | | | 7 | |
| | 1 | | 9 | | 5 | 4 | 3 | |

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Last Friday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 6 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 8 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| 7 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 9 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 |

Difficulty Level ★ 11/20

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

**BUSKERS** Solution: 7 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | O | T | L | I | G | H | T | G | C | M | A | E | T |
| W | O | H | S | K | E | T | C | H | N | I | U | V | P | S |
| R | L | I | M | B | O | L | A | V | I | T | S | E | F | I |
| T | E | E | R | T | S | E | M | M | S | L | I | N | A | L |
| I | C | T | P | N | P | I | A | P | E | E | C | U | M | A |
| N | N | F | A | O | M | G | O | N | E | C | L | E | P | T |
| O | A | I | R | E | I | O | I | R | V | I | O | L | I | N |
| I | D | G | K | R | H | T | U | N | E | P | W | G | L | E |
| T | E | T | O | T | U | T | Y | C | S | E | N | G | F | M |
| R | C | A | U | O | A | D | N | A | L | P | S | U | Y | U |
| O | N | B | R | C | E | E | R | C | W | T | I | J | R | T |
| T | A | O | I | M | I | R | R | U | C | B | A | R | Ⓣ | S |
| N | L | R | O | D | C | I | G | A | M | M | U | Ⓘ | E | O |
| O | A | C | U | E | C | F | O | O | D | S | Ⓟ | S | O | C |
| C | B | A | R | T | W | O | R | K | S | P | O | R | P | R |

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Acrobat, Acts, Artwork, Audience, Balance, Caricature, Celtic, Circle, Clown, Comedy, Contortion, Costume, Dance, Drums, Festival, Fire, Flip, Food, Gift, Hoops, Inspire, Jam, Juggle, Limbo, Magic, Mentalist, Mime, Music, Origami, Parkour, Poem, Poetry, Props, Rope, Routine, Show, Sing, Sketch, Spotlight, Street, Subway, Team, Theater, Tip, Venue, Violin

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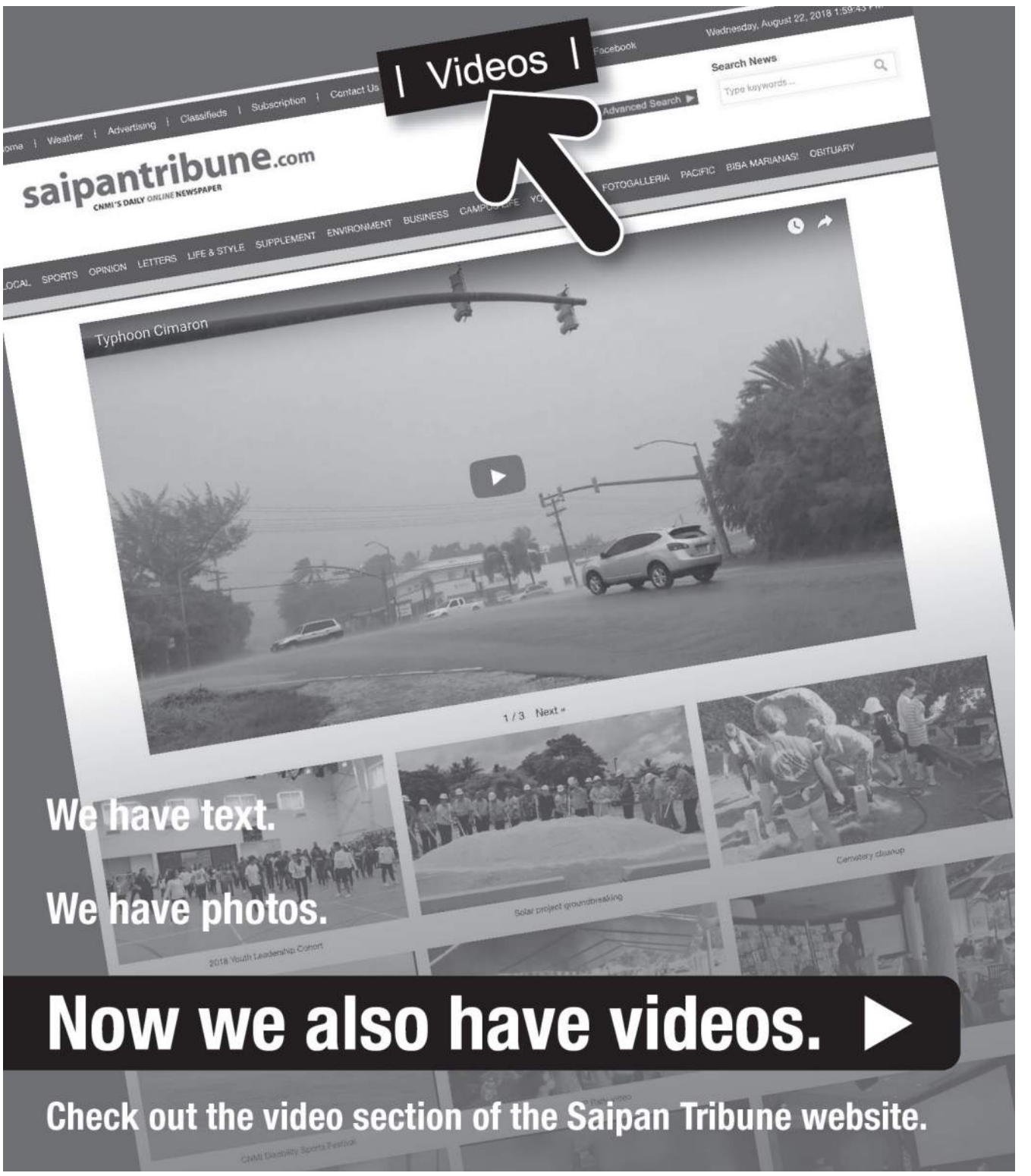


## WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

DRACULA DRAWN

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Find today's solution in classified section

# Broncos primed for late-season run after beating Steelers

AP

Denver Broncos outside linebacker Bradley Chubb (55) tackles Pittsburgh Steelers running back James Conner (30) as he fights off tight end Jesse James (81) during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2018, in Denver.

**DENVER** (AP) —Nose tackle Shelby Harris picked off Ben Roethlisberger's 2-yard pass to Antonio Brown in the end zone with 1:03 remaining to seal Denver's 24-17 win over Pittsburgh that snapped the Steelers' six-game winning streak Sunday.

The Broncos (5-6) used four takeaways to counter a 97-yard touchdown toss from Roethlisberger to JuJu Smith-Schuster.

Roethlisberger was 41 of 56 for 462 yards, but he was intercepted twice and the Steelers (7-3-1) lost two fumbles in losing for the first time since September.

Phillip Lindsay rushed for 110 yards and the game-deciding touchdown on just 14 carries for Denver, which also ended the Chargers' six-game winning streak last week and would have snapped Houston's five-game roll were it not for a missed field goal as time expired.

### Chargers 45, Cardinals 10

In Carson, Philip Rivers tied the NFL record for consecutive completions and set marks for the most to start a game and the highest percentage in a game and Los Angeles rolled over Arizona.

The 15-year veteran completed his first 25 passes and was 28 of 29 for 259 yards and three touchdowns in three quarters. It was also his 11th straight game with multiple TD passes.

Rivers completed 25 straight passes in the first 2½ quarters, tying Ryan Tannehill's mark from 2015. The Dolphins QB completed his last seven passes against the Tennessee Titans in on Oct. 18, 2015, and then his first 18 the following week against the Houston Texans.

### Colts 27, Dolphins 24

In Indianapolis, Andrew Luck threw three touchdown passes, Adam Vinatieri kicked a 32-yard field goal as time expired and Indianapolis beat Miami for its fifth consecutive victory.

Indianapolis (6-5) scored 13 points in the final 8½ minutes to erase a 10-point deficit. It's the longest win streak for the Colts since 2014.

Miami (5-6) has lost 10 of its past 11 on the road, perhaps none more frustrating than this one. The Dolphins picked off Luck twice, recovered a fumble and partially blocked a punt on their way to a 24-14 lead.

### Seahawks 30, Panthers 27

In Charlotte, Russell Wilson threw for 339 yards and two touchdowns and Sebastian Janikowski kicked a 31-yard field goal as time expired to lift Seattle to a come-from-behind victory over Carolina.

After Graham Gano missed a 52-yard field goal with 1:40 left in the game that would have given the Panthers the lead, Wilson moved around in the pocket until finding Tyler Lockett downfield for a 43-yard completion, setting up the winning kick.

The victory puts Seattle (6-5) firmly in the hunt for a wild-card spot in the NFC, while the Panthers (6-5) are reeling after losing three straight and having their 10-game home winning streak snapped.

### Vikings 24, Packers 17

In Minneapolis, Kirk Cousins bounced back from his worst game for Minnesota with 342 passing yards and three touchdowns without a turnover, and the Vikings overcame some early gaffes to outlast depleted Green Bay.

Completing 29 of his 38 attempts, Cousins found Dalvin Cook, Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen for scores. Sheldon Richardson had two sacks to lead the defense's game-long stifling of Aaron Rodgers, and the Vikings (6-4-1) pushed the Packers (4-6-1) further back in the NFC wild-card race.

### Browns 35, Bengals 20

In Cincinnati, Baker Mayfield threw a career-high four touchdown passes in another growing-up-fast performance, and Cleveland ended one of the NFL's longest streaks of road futility with a victory over Cincinnati, which lost quarterback Andy Dalton to a thumb injury.

Cleveland (4-6-1) got its first road win since 2015, emphatically snapping a streak of 25 straight road losses that was one shy of the Lions' NFL record. The Browns also ended a run of seven straight losses to their intrastate rival.

### Eagles 25, Giants 22

In Philadelphia, Jake Elliott kicked a 43-yard field goal with 22 seconds remaining, and Philadelphia rallied for a victory over New York.

The defending Super Bowl champions trailed 12-0 early and were down 19-14 in the fourth quarter before Carson Wentz made key throws and undrafted rookie Josh Adams delivered big runs.

Adams scored on a 1-yard touchdown run and ran up the middle for the 2-point conversion to put Philadelphia ahead 22-19.

### Patriots 27, Jets 13

In East Rutherford, Tom Brady threw two touchdown passes and became the NFL's career leader in total yards passing in regular-season and playoff games, leading New England over New York.

Brady has 79,416 yards after going 20 of 31 for 283 yards in the victory that clinched the Patriots (8-3) their 18th straight season with a .500 record or better. That ranks second in NFL history to only Dallas, which had 21 in a row from 1965-85.

Brady had just one TD throw in his previous three games, but connected with Rob Gronkowski and Julian Edelman against the AFC East-rival Jets (3-8).

### Ravens 34, Raiders 17

In Baltimore, rookie quarterback Lamar Jackson ran for a touchdown and threw for a score, Terrell Suggs returned a fumble 43 yards for a TD and Baltimore ran past Oakland.

Cyrus Jones took a punt 70 yards for a touchdown to help the Ravens (6-5) win a second straight game for the first time since September.

Gus Edwards rushed for 118 yards as part of an effective ground game that enabled Jackson to pass just enough to keep the Raiders (2-9) off guard —and off the field.

### Bills 24, Jaguars 21

In Orchard Park, Josh Allen scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 14-yard run in the fourth quarter, and the Bills beat the Jaguars in a game marred by a fight that led to the ejections of Jacksonville running back Leonard Fournette and Buffalo defensive end Shaq Lawson.

Fournette scored twice to tie it at 14 in the second quarter. He finished with 95 yards on 18 carries before he was thrown out with 2:57 left in the third.

### Buccaneers 27, 49ers 9

In Tampa, Jameis Winston threw for 312 yards and two touchdowns to help Tampa Bay snap a four-game losing streak.

Winston, benched last month after turning the ball over 11 times in 14 quarters, completed 29 of 38 passes without an interception.

The fourth-year pro, who's shared the starting job with Ryan Fitzpatrick, tossed scoring passes of 6 yards to Cameron Brate and 28 yards to Adam Humphries on a play he extended by scrambling to his right before throwing back toward the center of the field.

## *Brady new NFL leader in yards passing*

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** (AP)—Tom Brady set yet another NFL record. Ho-hum. The New England Patriots quarterback was more excited about earning another victory.

Brady threw two touchdown passes and became the career leader in total yards passing in regular-season and playoff games, leading the Patriots past the New York Jets 27-13 on Sunday.

"Just wins," Brady said. "That's what we're here for. I'm trying to be a part of as many of these as I can."

Well, the five-time Super Bowl champion certainly has lots of those.

The latest clinched the Patriots (8-3) their 18th straight season with a .500 record or better. That ranks second in NFL history to only Dallas, which had 21 in a row from 1965-85.

Brady had just one TD throw in his previous three games, but connected with Rob Gronkowski and Julian Edelman against the AFC East-rival Jets (3-8). The Patriots quarterback went 20 of 31 for 283 yards, giving him 79,416 for his career.

He also reached 3,000 yards passing for the 16th season, tying Peyton Manning for second in NFL history behind Brett Favre's 18.

That's all after missing Friday's practice with an illness after being limited during the week with a sore knee.

"I'd prefer to be healthy and practice all the time," Brady said. "That just wasn't the case."

He was plenty good enough.

Rookie Sony Michel ran for a season-best 133 yards and a TD , and the Patriots had 215 yards rushing—responding well to coach Bill Belichick's challenge to his offense.

"We talked about being consistent week in and week out," Michel said, "playing Patriots football, being physical and run the ball and throw the ball and control the line of scrimmage."

Coming off a 34-10 loss to Tennessee two weeks ago, the Patriots avoided their second two-game losing streak of the season—something the franchise hasn't experienced since 2015. New England, which improved to 3-3 on the road, has won five straight in the series against New York and eight of the past nine.

With Jets rookie Sam Darnold out with a foot strain, 39-year-old backup Josh McCown got his second straight start—making this game the NFL's second-oldest QB combo at 80 years, 258 days with 41-year-old Brady going for New England. Only Carolina's Vinny Testaverde (44) and Green Bay's Favre (38) in 2007 are an older combination at 82 years, 44 days old.

Brady got the better of McCown in this one, though, even though it took until late in the second half for the Patriots to pull away.

# Vucevic, Magic hand Lakers another loss

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The Orlando Magic had swept the season series against the Los Angeles Lakers once in their first 29 seasons in the NBA.

In a span of eight days, the Magic did it for the second time.

Nikola Vucevic had 31 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists and Terrence Ross made a go-ahead lay-up with 34 seconds left to help the Magic beat the Lakers 108-104 on Sunday.

Ross scored 16 points for the Magic, who won 130-117 at home on Nov. 17.

"We're trying to build something, and wins like these can really help you build some momentum," Vucevic said.

Ross got to the rim to break the 104-104 deadlock after LeBron James missed a step-back 3-pointer. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope missed another 3 on the ensuing Lakers possession, and Aaron Gordon got a dunk on the runout to cap off the win.

Orlando was able to overcome poor starts in both games, but had to outlast a late charge to hold off Los Angeles this time after a 14-4 run tied the game with 2:24 to play.

Gordon had 17 points and D.J. Augustin added 12 points and nine assists for the Magic.

James had 24 points and seven assists for the Lakers, who had won three straight games and six of their past seven. Kyle Kuzma scored 21 points and Brandon Ingram added 17.

After falling behind by many as 12 points in the first quarter, the Magic would outscore the Lakers 67-42 during the second and third quarter. Orlando made 51 percent of its shots in that stretch, including 9 of 19 3-pointers.

"It just took time, but we stuck with it and put ourselves in position to win," Ross said.

Lakers players blamed their inability to protect their lead on a lack of effort.

"Defensively, we kind of broke down and the energy level was a little lower than our expectations, and they took advantage of that," James said.

Vucevic averaged 33.5 points, 14 rebounds and 3.5 assists against the Lakers this season, living up to Lakers coach Luke Walton's pregame description of the former Southern California star as a "nightmare to matchup with" because of the versatility of his offensive game.

"He's got our number this year," James said. "All you can say."

### 76ers 127, Nets 125

In New York, Jimmy Butler made a 3-pointer with 2.3 seconds remaining to give the Philadelphia 76ers a victory over the Brooklyn Nets.

Butler's shot from the right wing, similar to the one that beat Charlotte in overtime on Nov. 17, capped Philadelphia's rally from 20 points down in a game the Nets led nearly all the way.

Butler finished with 34 points and 12 rebounds, and Joel Embiid had 32 points and 12 boards for the 76ers.

### Raptors 125, Heat 115

In Toronto, Kawhi Leonard had 29 points and 10 rebounds, Kyle Lowry added 12 points and 10 assists, and Toronto won its fifth straight game.

Jonas Valanciunas had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Pascal Siakam scored 21 points, two shy of his career high, as the Raptors improved their NBA-leading record to 17-4.

Dwyane Wade scored a season-high 35 points, the most ever by a Miami bench player. Josh Richardson scored 19 points and Bam Adebayo had 16 points.

AP

Orlando Magic guard Evan Fournier, center, shoots as Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, left, and center Tyson Chandler defend during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 25, 2018, in Los Angeles. The Magic won, 108-104.

### Knicks 103, Grizzlies 98

In Memphis, Enes Kanter had a career-high 26 rebounds and scored 21 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. finished with 22 points and New York overcame a poor shooting first half to beat the Grizzlies.

Emmanuel Mudiay added 17 points, and Trey Burke had 15 to help the Knicks win their third straight in former Grizzles coach David Fizdale's return.

Marc Gasol led Memphis with 27 points.

### Pistons 118, Suns 107

In Detroit, Andre Drummond had 19 points and 16 rebounds, and Detroit pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Phoenix.

Devin Booker scored 37 points for Phoenix, and Detroit had a hard time shaking free of the Suns until a 15-3 run in the fourth. Blake Griffin had 16 points and 11 assists for the Pistons, and Reggie Jackson had 19 points and eight assists.

### Hawks 124, Hornets 123

In Atlanta, John Collins had 23 points and 11 rebounds and blocked Kemba Walker's runner as time expired, helping Atlanta snap a 10-game losing streak with a victory over Charlotte.

Walker, the NBA's second-leading scorer, hit a jumper to put Charlotte up by one with 47.5 seconds remaining, but he committed a shot-clock turnover on the next possession and finished 7 for 23 from the field for 22 points.

Kent Bazemore scored 20 points and hit the go-ahead basket for Atlanta.

### Clippers 104, Trail Blazers 100

In Oregon, Tobias Harris had 34 points and 11 rebounds, and Los Angeles beat Portland.

Danilo Gallinari made the tiebreaking jumper with 47 seconds left and added 17 points for the Clippers.

Damian Lillard scored 30 points for Portland, which led by 13 at halftime but then had to play the second half without starting center Jusuf Nurkic because of a bruised shoulder.

### Jazz 133, Kings 112

In Sacramento, Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 15 rebounds, Ricky Rubio scored 27 points and Utah beat Sacramento.

Joe Ingles added 18 points, Jae Crowder had 14 and Derrick Favors 11 to help the Jazz snap a three-game losing streak.

Utah won handily despite playing without leading scorer Donovan Mitchell, who sat out with bruised ribs.

Four days after losing to the Kings in Salt Lake City, the Jazz bounced back behind a fast start from Rubio then pulled away for their eighth consecutive road win in Sacramento.

# Madrid, Bayern back in crisis as Champions League resumes

**BERLIN** (AP)—Real Madrid and Bayern Munich return to the Champions League on Tuesday in crisis mode after the latest setbacks in their domestic leagues.

Madrid, the three-time European defending champion, was humiliated 3-0 by Eibar in Spain on Saturday. The first defeat for new coach Santiago Solari renews debate over his team's ability to challenge for honors in its first season without Cristiano Ronaldo in nearly a decade.

Solari, who started with four wins after replacing the fired Julen Lopetegui, next faces a stern test at Roma.

Bayern, which appeared without a serious rival as it clocked up six consecutive Bundesliga titles, is suddenly vulnerable in Niko Kovac's first season in charge. Bayern was held to a 3-3 draw at home by promoted Fortuna Duesseldorf - a relegation candidate - on Saturday, and is already well behind resurgent Borussia Dortmund. A seventh straight title is appearing increasingly unlikely.

Kovac has a point to prove when his team hosts Benfica, though a draw will be enough to ensure progress to the next round.

A look at the four Champions League groups on Tuesday:

### GROUP E

Bayern seems to be a shadow of its former self after twice letting a two-goal lead slip against Duesseldorf. Kovac's position is under threat unless he can coax the side into the kind of performances it delivered at the start of the season, when it scored 19 goals in its opening seven games - all victories - including the German Supercup win over Eintracht Frankfurt.

Bayern president Uli Hoeness, who previously said he would defend Kovac "to the hilt," appears to have changed his tune after saying Saturday that club officials would sit down after Benfica's visit to see "how things should continue."

### GROUP F

Manchester City can qualify for the knockout stage with a draw in Lyon and is aiming to avenge a 2-1 loss at home to the French team, its only loss so far in any competition this season.

Lyon's confidence-building 1-0 derby win over Saint-Etienne last Friday showed both the good and bad sides of Bruno Genesio's inconsistent team.

Lyon would be through with a win.

### GROUP G

Madrid's early season troubles are back after the demoralizing loss to Eibar. The team's attack is under scrutiny after failing to make up for Ronaldo's departure for Juventus, while its defense is among the worst in Spain. Madrid has already conceded 19 goals in 13 Spanish league matches.

Madrid and Roma are level on nine points and seem assured of progress from Group G. The Italian club will be through with a draw, or if CSKA Moscow fails to beat Plzen in the earlier group game.

### GROUP H

Group leader Juventus hosts Valencia and will be through with a draw or if Manchester United loses at home to Young Boys.

United coach Jose Mourinho is again under pressure after poor results. Since beating Juventus 2-1 in Turin, United has been taken apart in the Manchester derby by fierce rival City and then, in its first game back after the international break, held to a lacklustre 0-0 home draw by Crystal Palace in the Premier League.

United heads into Tuesday's game in second place in the group, two points behind Juventus and two clear of Valencia.

Valencia, which will be out of contention if it doesn't win and United does, will be wary of an even more motivated Cristiano Ronaldo.

The Juventus forward is still smarting from his sending off against Valencia in September - his first ever red card in the Champions League.

# 2018 Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run

**PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO**

Runners head out of Lower Base for last Thursday's 2018 Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, left, leads a group of runners heading to Capitol Hill for the 4.2-mile race from Lower Base to Mt. Tapochao.

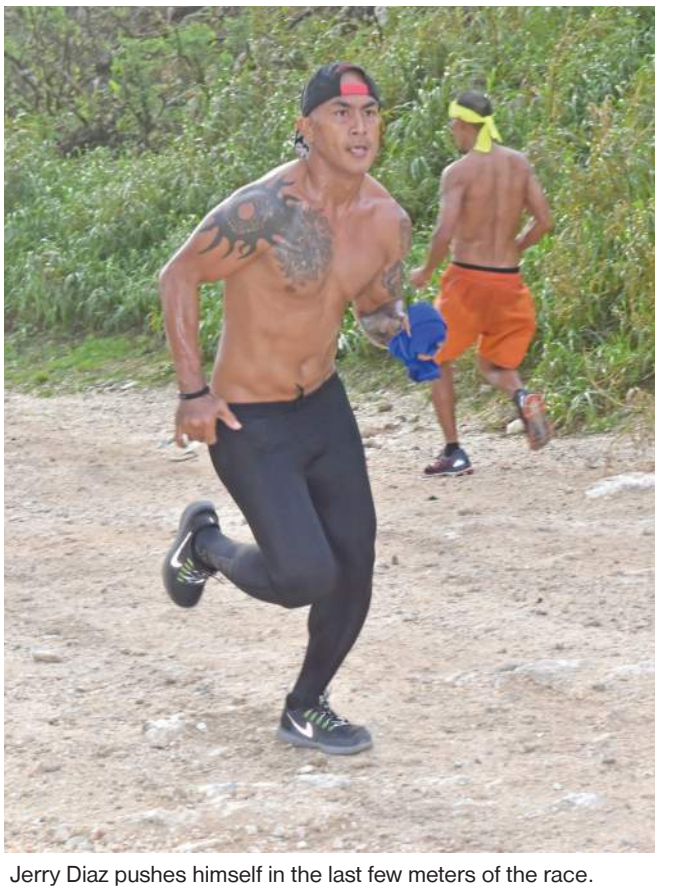
Robyn Spaeth, left, and Kimiko McKagan join the race with their babies.

Tania Tan nears the finish line.

Eleina Santos is on her way to a first place finish in the women's open division.

Barefoot runner Chang Whan Jang is about to complete the uphill run.

The overall and age group winners pose with their prizes during the awards ceremony.



Jerry Diaz pushes himself in the last few meters of the race.

Broncos primed for late-season run after beating Steelers
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Sports

# Heras having a blast in rookie season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former CNMI junior player Isabel Heras couldn't have asked for a better way to highlight her rookie season in the collegiate ranks.

"It was my first time playing for Dixie State University in the fall and that made me quite nervous, but I am happy with my results for this season," said Heras, who is on an athletics scholarship with the NCAA Division 2 school.

The DSU freshman had a 3-1 record in the fall season and helped the Trailblazers earn an undefeated record in the competition last month. The Trailblazers first eked out a 4-3 victory over Colorado Mesa in Grand Junction in Colorado and then eased past Colorado College, 8-1, to complete the fall season sweep.

"The girls and I trained hard before heading to Colorado and that helped us end the fall season undefeated. I got to experience my first college tennis competition against different school. It was an amazing experience that I enjoyed and will cherish forever," Heras said.

Against Colorado College, the CNMI player was 2-0 (singles and doubles wins), while she had a split in the Trailblazers' duel versus Colorado Mesa.

"The doubles matches I played were both very close and I just love the competition here," the 18-year-old said.

Against Colorado Mesa, Heras and Yolena Carlon lost a nip-and-tuck game over Kristen Kirby and Emily Beckley, 6-8. Heras then returned to the court for the singles play and her victory over Rebecca Osterberg, 6-0, 6-7, 7-6, saved the day for Dixie State. Versus Colorado College, the Commonwealth bet showed no mercy in downing Gaby Jadotte, 6-0, 6-0, while in the doubles, Heras and Carlon labored through a 6-4 triumph over Adela Burak and Annie Zlevor.

Heras is proud to be part of the Trailblazers' unbeaten season and hopes to continue her strong showing in her rookie season with DSU.

"Being part of this team is definitely a unique experience. We train together pushing each other every step of the way, even in 7am gym sessions," Heras said.

"The new season will start in February. We are still waiting for our spring schedule, but we will be traveling to a few states for next year's competitions," she added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Isabel Heras, seen here competing in last year's TanHoldings Tennis Classic, is having an impressive rookie season with the Dixie State University.

# Fence, mini pitch need urgent repair

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The assessment team Asian Football Confederation sent to Saipan has identified parts of the NMI Soccer Training Center that need repair as soon as possible.

AFC development consultant Domeka Garamendi and consultant for infrastructure Baltazar Avelino, after meeting with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association officials and assessing the damage at the training center in Koblerville, listed six priorities: fence, artificial turf equipment (cleaning and maintenance), pitches equipment (goal posts/nets), mini pitch, floodlight, and NMIFA transport vehicle.

The AFC team believed that construction of the fence should be fast track for security purposes. The secondary/mini pitch should also be prioritized, as many age group matches and grassroots activities are hosted in the area. The artificial turf at the secondary pitch, which also serves as a venue for futsal games and small-sided matches, was ripped off by the strong winds from Super Typhoon Yutu. Before the secondary pitch was damaged, girls U16 games in the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League were played there, while teams in the boys U18 also warmed up at the facility.

As for the fence around the entire facility, it was torn down, as two containers flew over and landed on the street, while cars of NMIFA officials also hit the fence and turned turtle due to the Category 5 typhoon that slammed Saipan and Tinian last month. The fence protecting the main and secondary pitches was also not spared from the wrath of Yutu, while broken glasses from the portable players/officials dugout were all over the main pitch. The goals from both pitches flew over and were found on the street in the residential area.

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done. The secondary/mini pitch was totally ripped, while the fence has to be replaced," said Garamendi, who compared the destruction left by Yutu on Saipan to the one that happened in Leyte, Philippines when Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) struck the province in 2013.

"The damage was massive and rebuilding is definitely needed. We will work with the FA to ensure that the facility will be repaired," he added. "We're just asking the public to be patient as we go through the AFC process."

Besides the fence and secondary pitch, AFC and NMIFA are also expected to team up in fixing the minor damage at the main pitch, portable dugouts, and the bleachers.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The artificial turf at the secondary/mini pitch at the NMI Soccer Training Center rolled out due to Super Typhoon Yutu.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The fence at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville was torn down by Super Typhoon Yutu.